



Nottingham
Business School
Nottingham Trent University



Centre for Finance, Technology and Society

Official Launch Event

March 2nd, 2023



Welcome

Professor Baback Yazdani, Executive Dean



Centres and Nottingham Business School Research

Professor Alistair Bruce, Associate Dean for Research



Driving Excellence in Research: the pivotal role of research centres

Each of our nine research centres aims to:

- Highlight a distinctive area of research excellence
- Offer a supportive, themed community of scholars with shared identity
- Secure increased investment in research
- Translate investment into high quality academic outputs
- Maximise impact of research beyond the academic sphere, as well as within it
- Inform and enrich our educational provision



Introduction

Jim Devlin, Director of the CFTS and Professor of
Financial Services



Agenda

- Professor Baback Yazdani: Welcome
- Professor Alistair Bruce: Centres and Nottingham Business School Research
- Centre aims and objectives; developments to date
- Dr Milad Dehghani: Technological Advancement in Digital Finance
- Professor Alex Brauneis: Crypto and Blockchain Finance
- Working together
- Contact Details
- Questions and Comments
- Drinks, Nibbles and Networking



Centre Aims and Objectives:



The Centre for Finance, Technology and Society (CFTS) aims to offer insights into current and emerging innovations in financial services facilitated by digital technologies, big data and AI including Open, Decentralised, and Crypto Finance; and related implications for practice, policy and society. The Centre aims to produce research which is both renowned and impactful and to offer comprehensive integration with practice and policy makers, as well as other interested parties.



Centre Aims and Objectives

- Research that is rigorous, renowned AND impactful
 - World-leading, rigorous research: significant academic contribution: actionable implications for, and which underpins constructive dialogue with, practitioners, policymakers and/or other interested parties
 - Much research likely to be transdisciplinary in nature and collaboration will increase chances with respect to research funding
- Generation of Research Funding from Research Councils and Commercial sources, including contract research
- Integration with Practice and Policymakers
 - Research focus and priorities co-produced through dialogue and interaction with the practitioner and policymaking communities, as well as other interested parties.
- Contribution to the Excellent, Personalised Educational Experience
 - Full contribution to the School's mission to offer all students an excellent educational experience
 - Including short course and micro-credentials



**CENTRE FOR FINANCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY**

**REGULATION
and POLICY;
PLACE and
PEOPLE;
ETHICS and
SECURITY**

**TECHNOLOGIES AND
INNOVATION IN
FINANCIAL SERVICES:
INCLUDING OPEN,
DECENTRALISED and
"CRYPTO" FINANCE**

**CONSUMERS
STRATEGY and
COMPETITION;
SUSTAINABLE AND
INCLUSIVE FINANCE**

RENOWNED AND IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

EXCELLENT PERSONALISED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATION WITH PRACTICE AND POLICYMAKERS

Developments to date

- Building on well-laid foundations
- Now four full-time academics “resident” in the Centre plus many more members (15 in Total)
- Research beginning to emerge from Centre (inc. *Journal of Empirical Finance (2)*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *IEEE Transactions* with others in the pipeline)
- Co-hosted the 2023 Issues in Financial Markets and Banking Conference
- Also scheduled to host the British Accounting and Finance Association Financial Markets and Institutions Special Interest Conference 2023
- And the next iteration of the Issues in Financial Markets and Banking Conference
- Centre staff heavily involved in Programme and Course development
 - New MSc Digital Finance and Data Analytics
 - New Short Course on the FutureLearn Platform “*Introduction to FinTech and Financial Markets*”
 - New Micro-credential on the FutureLearn Platform



Developments to date

- Planned joined research grant submission with the University of Ulster under ***UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme*** working title “***Open finance: Assessing consumer acceptance, usage and societal benefits of Account Information and Payment Initiation services***”
- 15 ongoing projects ranging from “***Should You Listen to Crypto YouTubers?***” to ***Measuring Patent Grant Application in Financial Technology by Using a Machine Learning Approach*** and “***Trust In the Digital Financial Context***”
- Relationship building with stakeholders locally and nationally; initial and ongoing discussions
- Particularly local FinTech entrepreneurs and interested local firms



Technological Advancement in Digital Finance

Milad Armani Dehghani, Senior Research Fellow



My research

- **Patent analysis in financial industry**
- **Technological advances in digital payment**
- **Digital-Only Banks (NEO Banks)**
- **Augmented Reality (AR) in banking**
- **Tokenisation and Cryptocurrency**



Technological advances in digital payment

- **Pay & Go**
- **Voice-based payment**
- **BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later)**
- **SNBL (Save Now Buy Later)**



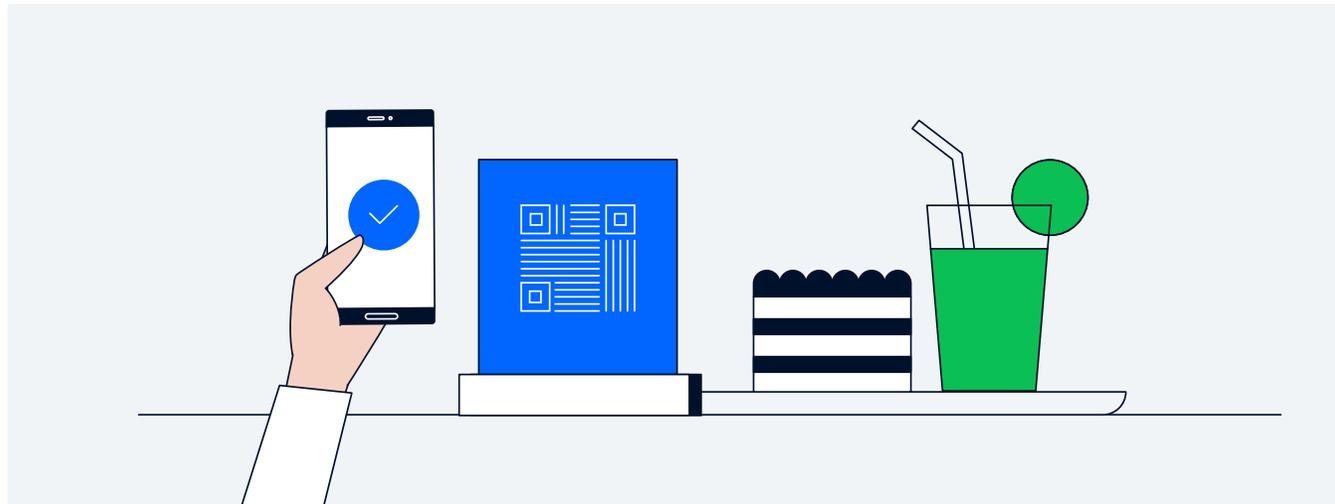
IoT Payments – Scan and Go

For the shoppers:

- No more line ups
- Auto-sync loyalty programs
- Faster shopping experience

For the merchant:

- Lower capital costs
- Higher IoT security
- Better inventory management



IoT based payment that puts the purchase and checkout in the hands of customers simply, fast, and secure. Shoppers can simply scan the barcodes of the items they want and when there are finished shopping, pay from anywhere and go!

BNPL or SNBL? That is the question!

- **Buy now, pay later (BNPL)** is a type of short-term financing that allows consumers to make purchases and pay for them over time, usually with no interest.
- **Save Now Buy Later (SNBL)** option wherein consumers can save for a fixed period and get discounts of 15-20 per cent on the purchase while avoiding a debt trap as well.

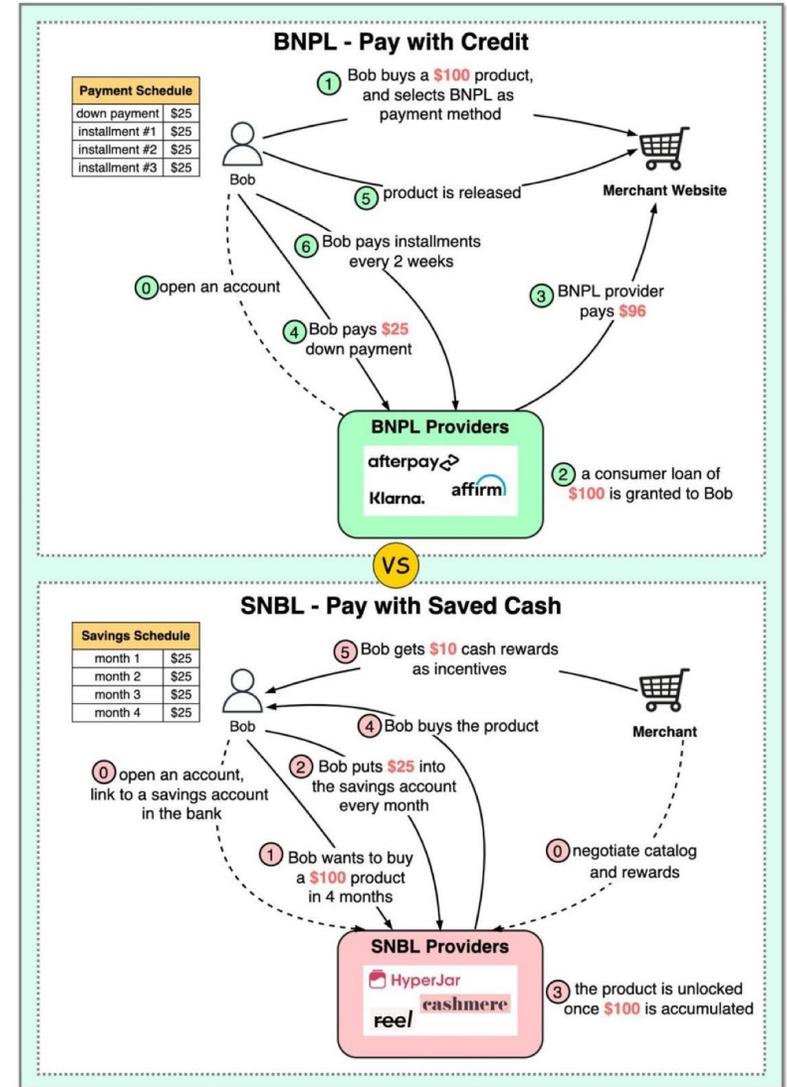


BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later)

SNBL (Save Now Buy Later)

VS

blog.bytebytego.com





Six Banking areas that can be disrupted with AR and VR

- Locating ATMs and Offers
- Self Service
- Payments Experience
- Customer Acquisition
- Stock Trading
- Financial Education

Crypto and Blockchain Finance

Alex Brauneis, Professor of Finance and Innovation





What is crypto?

- Blockchain based
- Digital
- Decentralised
- Peer to peer
- Transforming the financial landscape
- A proof and store of ownership
- Volatile
- Zero value asset
- Ponzi scheme
- Fraud
- Fad
- FOMO and FUD

A (my) bold prediction:

You'll all use blockchains and tokenized assets *daily* by 2030.



Bill Gates (1995) at David Letterman

- Letterman:
 - Why don't I have a computer?
- Gates:
 - We need to find an application for you



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fs-YpQj88ew>

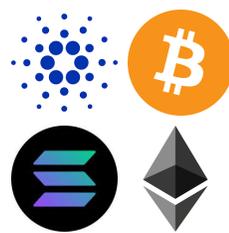
The crypto ecosystem as of early 2023

Centralised Exchanges



Fiat Onramps
Congrats, you're in

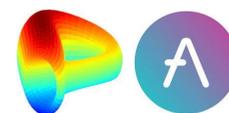
Layer 1 Blockchains



Layer 2 Scaling



Dec Finance Protocols



Stable coins



Decentral Exchange



Decentral Storage



Decentral Oracles



Internet of Things



Decentral AI



Meme coins



Play to earn



Tokenized Assets



NFT platforms



My research

- Are crypto markets **predictable**?
- How to **diversify** risk in crypto?
- What drives **liquidity** in crypto markets?
- How do **trading fees** affect market data?
- What's the role of **social media** and **sentiment** in crypto?
- Why do people **across the globe** trade at UK **tea-time**?
- How to **price** DeFi assets?
- How to detect **tech-specific** financial risks?



One more thing ...

And it's not a new iPhone



CFTS Bright Minds – NFT Collection





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Get your CFTS souvenir NFT!

Store a digital memento of the launch event in your web3 wallet

- Get your web3 wallet ([Metamask](#) recommended).
- Send your public wallet address to alexander.brauneis@ntu.ac.uk and receive one of these NFTs.
- Or: make an offer on looksrare. Any will be accepted.
- Smart Contract: <https://goerli.etherscan.io/address/0xc287751bf5ccdc20f9f961f763d0a2b6bf9374>
- View the NFTs: <https://goerli.looksrare.org/accounts/0xEAA841Cd38fad2FBEEdD802C627e496B2d848e266>
- Get Goerli Testnet ETH here: <https://goerli-faucet.pk910.de/>



Limited to 50 NFTs!

Working together

Jim Devlin, Director of the CFTS, Professor of
Financial Services



Working together

- Join the mailing list and become or nominate a member of our Advisory Network
- When launched take our short course or longer micro-credential or enquire about the possibility of a [tailored short course or CPD](#)
- Opportunity to work with knowledgeable academics and dedicated, qualified graduate resource via a [Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#)
- Calls to participate in or help us with our programme of research and help us with roots to impact for our work
- Opportunity to benefit from [student internships](#) to help gain insights and find solutions to business issues and challenges
- Bespoke research projects on a contracted bases



Working together

- Joint Funded PhD studentship for more substantial, longer-term joint research projects
- Professional Doctorate, particularly for senior industry practitioners to advance practice and understanding whilst continuing to work
- Planning a series of “Financial Insights” talks from senior practitioners aimed at local and regional practitioner community as well as some student communities
- Give something back by getting involved in guest lecturing or similar
- Look out for information on future Centre events



Follow up

To join our Advisory Network mailing list, to find out more about the Centre or anything we have talked about, please contact:

Kim.Keirnan@ntu.ac.uk

Or

James.Devlin@ntu.ac.uk

Thank you for listening

Questions and Comments

