

Governance of Public Blockchain Networks November 7, 2018

This week, we will talk about the governance of public blockchain networks, like those of Bitcoin or Ethereum. As these systems originally emerged from the open source software development world, governance practices were borrowed from that world, at least for the software development and maintenance processes. There have been debates about whether these systems have governance at all, or whether they are fully 'trustless.' There have been debates about which actors in these systems are making decisions that could be considered governance. Questions of accountability, responsibility, and power are all part of the governance discussion.

We will be joined by Vlad Zamfir, a researcher for the Ethereum network. Mr. Zamfir was involved in resolving the DAO hack that we previously discussed, and has been one of the leading voices exploring governance.

Please come prepared with at least 2 questions for Mr. Zamfir.

READINGS:

Angela Walch, *In Code(rs) We Trust: Software Developers as Fiduciaries in Public Blockchains*.

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3203198>

Carla Reyes, *If Rockefeller Were a Coder*

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3082915>

Fred Ehrsam, *Blockchain Governance: Programming Our Future*.

<https://medium.com/@FEhrsam/blockchain-governance-programming-our-future-c3bfe30f2d74>

Vlad Zamfir, *Against On-Chain Governance*

https://medium.com/@Vlad_Zamfir/against-on-chain-governance-a4ceacd040ca

Vlad Zamfir, *Blockchain Governance 101*

<https://blog.goodaudience.com/blockchain-governance-101-eea5201d7992>

Vlad Zamfir, *My Intentions for Blockchain Governance*

https://medium.com/@Vlad_Zamfir/my-intentions-for-blockchain-governance-801d19d378e5

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to govern a blockchain?

Who are the actors who play a role in blockchain governance? Does it differ from blockchain to blockchain?

Why is blockchain governance important? What kinds of decisions are made by people involved in these systems?

How do questions around blockchain governance connect to law?

What is 'on-chain' governance? What is 'off-chain' governance? What are the pros and cons of each, according to commentators?