



Inaugural “Future of Money-Like Things” Talks

Hosted by the SFU Gena Lab and School of Communication

Thursday March 12, 2026 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm

SFU Vancouver Harbour Centre, 555 West Hastings St. (Room: HC3520)

Please join us for a panel about some lesser known parts of the crypto ecosystem from emerging scholars in the fields of anthropology, communication, sociology, and law. We explore sociotechnical practices, players, and communities driving diffusion and, sometimes, confusion. Contributions span a range of empirical contexts and methodological approaches: from crypto-as-lottery in Thailand and the transnational legal flows of wrapping an NFT DAO in a foundation, to Bitcoin meme cultures on social media, Bitcoin communities, and cats. Together, these papers examine how blockchain technologies are embedded in, and transformed by, the social worlds.

Speakers

Speaker and Affiliation	Topic
Dr. Al Lim, Yale University (Anthropology and Environmental Studies)	<i>“More than Mania: Crypto as Lottery in Thailand”</i>
Dr. May Hen, University of Cambridge (Faculty of Law)	<i>“Wrapping the Bored Ape Yacht Club DAO in a Foundation”</i>
Dr. Pippa Adams, SFU (Digital Democracies Institute Postdoctoral Fellow)	<i>“‘I’m also going to make memes’: Bitcoin Meme Cultures on Instagram and Nostr”</i>
Jenn Mentanko, SFU (Gena Lab CMNS (Doctoral Candidate))	<i>“Living Through Bitcoin: The Co-construction of Communities and Technology”</i>
Prof. Peter Chow-White, SFU (Gena Lab CMNS)	<i>“Cats are Building the Internet, Again”</i>

Speaker Biographies:

[Dr. Al Lim](#)

Dr. Lim recently defended his dissertation in Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Yale University, where his research examines the social ecology of crypto in Thailand. He has published in *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, *Urban Geography*, and *The Journal of the Siam Society*, and holds an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a BA (summa cum laude) from Yale-NUS College. He also brings several years of professional experience in the crypto and AI sectors, including venture capital and ecosystem development.

[Dr. May Hen](#)

Dr. Hen is based in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge as a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Research Fellowship and Isaac Newton Trust Research Fellowship. She is a fiscal sociologist and socio-legal researcher who uses ethnography and qualitative methods to study decentralized finance (DeFi), blockchain, cryptocurrencies, digital assets, tax, foundations and the digital economy. Dr. Hen holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge (Jesus College) and a MA from Simon Fraser University. Her current project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Leverhulme Trust (UK) and Isaac Newtown Trust (UK), and Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities.

[Dr. Pippa Adams](#)

Philippa Adams, PhD (Simon Fraser University) is a Data Fluencies Postdoctoral Fellow at SFU's Digital Democracies Institute, her work brings together computational methods and cultural studies in communication, media, and feminist critical data studies. At the core of her current research are questions about how new and social media, and the computational systems they are built upon, are implicated in the reinforcement or change of existing power structures, and how critical data scholars can better interpret and understand our relationship to social media and social media data.

[Jenn Mentanko](#)

Jennifer Mentanko is a PhD candidate in the School of Communication. Jenn's research interests are disruptive technology, social construction and the diffusion of innovation. She is currently researching Bitcoin communities for her dissertation to understand the social construction of blockchain technology by emerging communities. She also works in the GeNA Lab investigating the social, economic and political impacts of blockchain.

[Dr. Peter Chow-White](#)

Peter is a Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. He is Director of the Gena Lab where they research the role of critical communication and culture in the adoption and evolution of the fields of clinical genomics, privacy, blockchain, AI, and social media.

