



**University of East London**  
Royal Docks School of Business & Law

## The Centre of FinTech News & Updates

### Message from the Centre Director



In this third issue, I am delighted to say that the Centre continues, with enthusiasm and energy, to play a pivotal role in advancing FinTech here in the UK and globally. The Centre is excited by the opportunities presented to it, regularly, to make a difference in the FinTech space. Through the Centre's activities, it continues to: advance FinTech education; foster opportunities in the space for our students; engage in research and projects around fascinating developments in the space such as Central Bank Digital Currencies, Conversational AI, financial services in the metaverse etc. It continues to contribute to public policy discussions on these issues and is also becoming a forum for them.

Also, in this issue, we are sad to say goodbye to our Centre Chair, Professor Mohammad Ali, who has been hugely supportive of the vision of the Centre and was instrumental in its

creation. Professor Ali would be taking on a new role as Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School of Business at Anglia Ruskin University. We thank him for the great energy and support he channelled towards the Centre during his time as Chair and we wish him every success in his new role. We look forward to his continued engagement with the Centre as Visiting Professor and External Adviser.

We are also sad to see the Co-Director of the Centre, Dr Julie Wall, move on from this role to focus on her role as Director of Impact and Innovation within the School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering. We would like to say thank you to her, for the passion she displayed towards the activities of the Centre while as Co-Director. Dr Wall continues to remain an indefatigable member of the Centre and will remain actively involved with its activities. We are, however, happy to announce Dr Fahimeh Jafari as the new Associate Director of the Centre from the School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering. Dr Jafari is a computer science expert with keen interests in Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Interconnection Networks and Distributed Systems. We are sure she would bring her expertise and experience to this role in helping to realise the vision of the Centre.

We would also like to specially acknowledge our very active and engaged Advisory Board with whom we had a very productive meeting on 15 February. Our Advisory Board remain a key part of our success story.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the Centre's activities, projects and engagements in the coming issue, till then, continue to stay tuned to us!

*Dr Iwa Salami*

## **Dr Fahimeh Jafari Joins as Associate Director of the Centre of FinTech**



We warmly welcome Dr Fahimeh Jafari, as Associate Director of the Centre of FinTech!

Dr Fahimeh Jafari is a Senior Lecturer in Computer Science and Postgraduate Research Lead for the Department of Computer Science and Digital Technologies. Her research interests and expertise include FinTech, AI-assisted Road Safety, Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Interconnection Networks, Performance Evaluation, Analytical Modelling, and Optimisation Theory. Fahimeh has more than 15 years of experience in teaching, research, supervision of students and collaboration with research groups, projects, and companies such as Techbuyer, Intel, DPFE, and Ericsson. She has published papers in international conferences and prestigious journals like IEEE Transactions and ACM Transactions. She has been an Editorial Board member, TPC member, and active reviewer of various international conferences/journals such as ACM Transactions on Design Automation of Electronic Systems (TODAES), JPDC and Recent Patents on Computer Science.

## Dr Julie Wall Talks Centre of FinTech with King Charles



Dr Julie Wall participated in the visit of His Majesty King Charles III to the University of East London to showcase research and the UEL Centre of FinTech. [Click to read more](#)

## The Centre of FinTech Holds its First Advisory Board Meeting of the Year



The Centre of FinTech held its first Advisory Board Meeting for the Year to discuss the future of the Centre. The meeting took place on **Wednesday, 15 February between 16:30 - 18:30**. Attendance was a hybrid of virtual and in-person and would take place at the Royal Docks School of Business and Law in Stratford, London. We say a huge thank you to the Board for their active participation!

## MBC South Korean TV visit the Centre of FinTech



MBC South Korean TV visited the Centre of FinTech at the Royal Docks School of Business and interviewed Director of the Centre, Dr Iwa Salami, as part of a documentary on 'For the Better Future - Blockchain Technology' produced in January 2023, as their country explores

the use of Blockchain Technology in public services. See excerpts of this interview captured [here](#)

## FinTech Connected - UEL Centre of Fintech Podcast | FinTech Start-ups: Opportunities and Risks



Dr. Iwa Salami, Director of the Centre of FinTech speaks to Dr. Ritesh Jain, Founder at Infynit on 'FinTech Start-ups: Opportunities and Risks'. Dr. Jain discusses, passionately, about the huge opportunities still in the FinTech space and considers the risks - identifying investment, regulatory and jurisdictional risks as key areas. He also shares a bit about his thoughts on the future of financial services in the metaverse but emphasises the need to first deal with the current challenges of financial inclusion which can be improved by existing technology . [Click here to watch more](#)

Previous Podcasts/ Roundtables:

[A Holistic Approach to Running a FinTech in an Emerging Market](#)

Mr. Alogwu shares useful insights from his wealth of experience in working with FinTech start-ups and comments on the role of incumbents and regulators in facilitating FinTechs with a view, amongst other things, to facilitate financial inclusion in developing and

emerging markets.

### [Islamic Finance & FinTech with Sharjil Ahmed & Dr Bilyaminu Auwal Romo](#)

This Podcast with Dr Bilyaminu Auwal Romo of the Centre of Fintech & Sharjil Ahmed, Co-founder of Cykuba, talks about Islamic Finance and Fintech.

### [FinTech & Fraud- Dr Iwa Salami \(Director of The Centre of FinTech\), Nigel Cannings \(CTO Intelligent Voice\) & Colin LeMahieu \(Director at Nano Foundation\)](#)

In this event, industry professionals answer questions posed to them on fraudulent activities in the FinTech space. Questions cover financial institutions and crypto-asset industry fraud and the role of regulation, technology and education in combating these issues.

### [Recent Developments in the Crypto Space and the Role of Regulation- Iwa Salami \(Director of The Centre of FinTech\), Katie Mitchell \(SVP, Global Head of Policy and Engagement, Crypto.com\) and John Bertrand \(Director, On Demand Payment Technologies\)](#)

The trio discusses Recent Developments in the Crypto Space and The Role of Regulation.

## External Impact




## Professor Mohammad Ali discusses The Era of Convergence | Tracing the Merge of Traditional and Decentralised Finance

Professor Mohammad sat down with HarringtonStarr to discuss the Era of Convergence: Tracing the Origins, the Emergence, the Convergence and the Future of Traditional and Decentralised Finance. Watch [here](#)

# The Centre of FinTech's Schedule of Events

The Centre is also excited to announce a few events:

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## THE CENTRE OF FINTECH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**JANUARY**

24TH [PRERECORDED PODCAST]: FINTECH START-UPS - CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES - RITESH JAIN | ONLINE

**FEBRUARY**

15TH [ADVISORY BOARD MEETING]: US2.39 | 4:30PM - 6:30PM

**MARCH**


14TH [SEMINAR]: HORIZON SCANNING & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN FINANCE - UK FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY (FCA) STAFF | US 1.12; 6:00PM

16TH [SEMINAR]: DEMYSTIFYING DEFI-CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS] - TIM ARON MINERVA CHAMBERS | US 2.40; 6:00PM-7:00PM

21ST [SEMINAR]: REGULATORY SANDBOX, INNOVATION PATHWAYS & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT - UK FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY (FCA) | US 1.12; 6:00PM

28 MARCH [SEMINAR]: 'DIGITAL SANDBOX & TECHSPRINTS - UK FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY | US 1.12; 6:00PM

30 MARCH [TALK]: BENYAMIN AHMED, SCHOOL-GOING NFT CREATOR WHO HAS EARNED OVER \$990,000 IN ETHEREUM, THE CRYPTO-BLOCKCHAIN NETWORK | MLT DOCKLANDS CAMPUS; 12-2PM

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## THE CENTRE OF FINTECH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**APRIL**

18TH [WORKSHOP]: IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALGORAND FOUNDATION - BLOCKCHAIN, ALGOKIT, AND THE FACILITATION OF WEB3 ADOPTION THROUGH THE ALGORAND BLOCKCHAIN | MLT - MAIN LECTURE THEATRE (DOCKLANDS); 11:00-1:00PM

27TH [SEMINAR]: THE FUTURE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN A FINTECH WORLD - ROLAND EMMANS | US2.40; 6:00PM-7:00PM

**MAY**

TBC [SEMINAR]: NFTS AND IP - ERIC HOU RICHARDS | US 101; TBC


**JUNE**

14TH [ANNUAL EVENT]: CENTRE OF FINTECH ANNUAL EVENT | US 1920; 5:00PM-6:30PM

**JULY**

TBC [CAREER EVENT]: FINTECH BOOTCAMP - RASHMI PRABHAKAR, LAVINIA OSBOURNE, NADIA EDWARDS-DASHTI AND OYINKANSOLA ADEBAYO | TBC

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTRE OF FINTECH, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:



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