



Deakin Crime and Criminology Group (C2G) Seminar



The Crime-Crypto Nexus: Nuances across crypto-crime transactions

Please join Professor Christian Leuprecht, Class of 1965 Distinguished Professor at the Royal Military College of Canada

Hybrid Event Date: 28 June 2023

Time: 3.00-4.30pm

Venue: Deakin Downtown, Collins Square, Tower 2, Level 12, 727 Collins St, Melbourne
or

Online: Register to receive Zoom link

Cryptocurrency is at the nexus of illicit behaviour by transnational criminal networks involved in terrorism, drug trafficking, pornography, sanctions-evasion, and ransomware. The transboundary, un(der)regulated, and relatively new features of cryptocurrency are having a transformative impact on crime: in 2021 and 2022 a state-sponsored hacking group in North Korea procured billions in crypto coins through ransomware attacks to fund its nuclear arsenal. Hacking has emerged as the crypto equivalent of a bank robbery, stealing vast sums from exchange websites. In August of 2016 Bitfinex, a top exchange program for cryptocurrency, was hacked and lost over half their digital assets. Assets valued at US\$3.6 billion were traced to a couple who had enriched themselves and laundered proceeds of crime using different cryptocurrencies. This seminar focusses on the prevalent monolithic approach to crypto-crime. It explores the way cryptocurrency is being leveraged to enable Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), sanctions evasion and ransomware to make the case for a more nuanced approach to contain its proliferating use for criminal transactions.

Prof. Christian Leuprecht is Class of 1965 Distinguished Professor at the Royal Military College of Canada and Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Military Journal. He also directs the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations in the School of Policy Studies and is an Adjunct Research Professor in the Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security at Charles Sturt University. A former Bicentennial Professor in Canadian Studies at Yale University, Matthew Flinders Fellow at Flinders University of South Australia, Eisenhower Fellow at the NATO Defence College, and Fulbright Research Chair in Canada-US Relations at John Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies, he is an elected member of the College of New Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada and recipient of the Cowan Prize for Excellence in Research at the Royal Military College of Canada. He holds Ontario provincial appointments as chair of the Ontario Research Fund Advisory Board and to the Kingston Police Services Board. His latest books include *Intelligence as Democratic Statecraft* (Oxford University Press, 2021), *Polar Cousins: Comparison Antarctic and Arctic Geostrategic Futures* (University of Calgary Press, 2022), *Patterns in Border Security: Regional Comparisons* (Routledge, 2023), *Dirty Money: Financial Crime in Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press), and *Security. Cooperation. Governance. The Canada-United States Open Border Paradox* (University of Michigan Press, 2023).

Register your in-person attendance via [Eventbrite](#) or email laura.bedford@deakin.edu.au to receive your Zoom link at least one day before the event.

For any queries, please contact:
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