**Research fellowship for Trust Machines for TrustlessNess (TruMaN):**

**The Impact of Distributed Trust on the Configuration of Blockchain Ecosystems**

Blockchain is widely regarded as a breakthrough innovation that may have a profound impact on almost every sector of the economy and society, of a magnitude comparable to the introduction of the Internet itself. While words like ‘trust machine’ and ‘trustlessness’ are used to invoke the revolutionary potential of blockchains, what trust in blockchains implies is still ill-understood.

This research project aims to provide a nuanced understanding of what trust means in blockchain ecosystems. The main goal is to identify different blockchain stakeholders and develop taxonomies of how they collaborate and trust each other in blockchain ecosystems. The ultimate purpose is to contribute to a better understanding of how the ‘blockchain revolution’ is likely to change social and economic relations and help us prepare for it.

We are looking for a candidate interested in new technological trends, and especially in contributing to the practical understanding of how emerging technology leads to new forms of organization in our society.

The project aims to conduct blockchain-use case studies in different sectors within the Italian and European landscape, drawing on methods and techniques such as ethnography, data scraping, and semi-structured interviewing.

**Timeline of activities**

The first six months will be focused on the following activities: the literature review, the data collection, and the definition of the specific research questions.

According to these activities, during the first period, the candidate will be mainly involved in the design of the interview protocol, the identification of the case studies – at the national and international level – for data collection, and the review of existing studies in the streams of literature of reference.

The second period – the second six months – will be focused on data analysis and dissemination. The candidate will be involved in the writing of papers to be presented at academic conferences (e.g., AoM Annual Meeting, EGOS Annual Meeting, EURAM, etc.), and to be submitted to academic journals (e.g., Organization Studies, JMS, Strategic Organization, AMJ)

**Requirements**

- Background knowledge of management and organization theories

- Passion and interest in technology (deep knowledge and understanding of blockchain is not required)

- Some previous experience with empirical research, especially qualitative (case studies, semi-structured interviews, observation, qualitative data analysis, grounded theory methodology)

- Excellent writing skills: proven ability to conduct reviews of scientific research and to craft research papers

- Autonomy and initiative in identifying data sources for the research project: browsing blockchain websites, constructing and refining databases of blockchain projects, contacting people for interviews, conducting interviews, maintaining contacts for research and dissemination, contributing to organizing events and initiatives regarding the project

- Analytical approach and skills: developing in-depth, qualitative insights from data

- Good knowledge of English

- Programming skills are a plus