



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON EMPIRICAL APPROACHES TO ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL CRIME

Nassau, The Bahamas

19 and 20 January 2023

The Central Bank of The Bahamas is pleased to sponsor this conference series on Empirical Approaches to Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime. Thanks to strong support from authors and participants, this conference has become the leading event of its type globally.

We invite research submissions for the fourth iteration of this research conference. For the recently completed 2022 conference, accepted papers and the conference schedule are available at <https://aml-cft.centralbankbahamas.com/2022>.

Interested authors should note the following points:

- 1) We welcome and accept submissions from both academics and practitioners. Academic papers should be presented in pre-publication form. Working papers are acceptable, but papers already published in a journal or equivalent are ineligible. Practitioner papers need not be but may be presented with academic formatting, references, and bibliography. In past conferences, about two thirds of the accepted papers were academic and one third practitioner works. We welcome papers from established and emerging scholars, including PhD candidates and post-docs.
- 2) Papers may be submitted in English or in Spanish. Courtesy of the Inter-American Development Bank, both the papers and the online aspects of the conference will contain Spanish translation options. We prefer accepted authors to present in English, but can make Spanish to English translation available in need.
- 3) “Empirical” in this context means “based on observation and/or data.” We are happy to consider but do not require papers backed by extensive datasets. Some past accepted papers, for example, have deployed case studies, ethnographic surveys, and comparative document analysis. We do not usually accept papers that are entirely theoretically focused.
- 4) Papers may be of any length and in any broadly accepted format. Successful submissions typically range from 12 to 45 pages, with about 30 pages including references the average.
- 5) The conference will cover economy class air fare, hotel, and most meal expenses for one author for each accepted paper.

- 6) We accept papers across the broad spectrum of empirical AML and financial crime research, but every year we nominate themes of particular interest.
 - Our first theme in 2023 is: “What is working for empirical AML approaches?” In the context of an international AML effort that is very costly and in some senses ineffective, we are seeking positive applied examples. This could include identifying suspect transactions, accounts, and customers, quantifying the flows, costs, and benefits of AML efforts, or any other application that is deploying empirical techniques and achieving a demonstrably positive result.
 - Our second theme is sectoral studies on financial crime issues, with extractive industries (petroleum, minerals, precious metals and stones, and logging) first among equals. Other sectors of interest include but are not limited to real estate (a 2022 focus), crypto-assets, and human trafficking.
- 7) Papers will be published on the conference website, but copyright remains with the authors.
- 8) The conference selection panel will consider submissions from 1 September 2022. Authors are advised to submit by 31 August 2022, and in any event no later than 30 September 2022.
- 9) Draft papers and abstracts may be submitted. Experience from past conferences suggests that substantial drafts are just as competitive as final papers. Abstracts need to be well-developed to be competitive.
- 10) Accepted authors will be notified in September and October 2022. Final drafts are due by 20 December 2022.
- 11) Accepted papers will normally be presented in groups of three in a two-hour session, with each presenter allocated 20 minutes, and the discussion across the session’s papers allocated an hour. This allocation gives substantial time for each author to present and to receive helpful feedback.
- 12) Submissions, questions, and comments should be sent to AMLConferences@centralbankbahamas.com. We look forward to reading your submission.
- 13) In addition to authors, the conference will welcome up to 100 in-person AML experts in person, plus an unlimited number of online attendees. We intend to circulate an invitation to participants in October, but you may wish to reserve the dates now.

Thank you for your interest in this conference.