

Call For Papers: Inaugural AML/CFT Empirical Research Conference

January 22 - 23, 2020
Nassau, The Bahamas



INAUGURAL AML/CFT EMPIRICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBOB) and the Association of Supervisors of Banks of the Americas (ASBA), with the support of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the IDB Lab, are organizing the inaugural international conference on empirical research into Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), and related topics.

The organizers are hopeful that this conference will assist in building a network of experts and encouraging work among the empirically-based AML/CFT global research community. This will help policy-makers and practitioners to address AML/CFT challenges globally and in the Caribbean.

Call For Papers

We are seeking papers that are both:

- Relevant to AML/CFT and financial crime topics; and
- Centered upon empirical analysis, broadly defined.

We emphasize that the “empirical” element in submitted papers refers to reliance upon data, rather than any minimum standard of complexity in the paper’s analytic approach.

For the inaugural conference, we particularly welcome papers that empirically examine correspondent banking relationships and the de-risking phenomenon, which is a potential threat to Caribbean financial stability. The conference’s scope, however, is global, and we welcome topics including but not limited to:

- Identifying and using databases and analytic techniques that are relevant to understanding and/or preventing financial crime;
- Producing cost/benefit analyses of AML/CFT initiatives;
- Assessing the efficacy of AML/CFT risk rating and risk management approaches; and
- Examining specific topics such as currency operations, suspicious transaction reporting, and the deterrent efficacy of various sanctions methods.

Rules For Submission

1. There are no restrictions on the nationalities of the author(s) of the papers.
2. No more than one paper per author will be allowed. If a paper is written by more than one author, a signed authorization from the authors must be submitted.
3. The papers must be submitted in English.
4. The length of papers should not exceed 20,000 words (50 pages), including cover letter, abstract, bibliography and annexes.
5. The Selection Committee will be made up of representatives of ASBA, Caribbean Development Bank, Central Bank of the Bahamas, and IDB Lab.
6. For the evaluation of the papers, the organizers will assign a number to each paper. This number will be the only mean of identification of the papers to the Selection Committee.
7. Author(s) of selected papers will be invited to present at the conference. The Selection Committee reserves the right to limit the number of invited authors per paper.

8. The Selection Committee will commence considering submissions in September. We would appreciate receiving submissions by the end of August, but will consider later submissions if there is still room in the conference program.
9. Submissions in PDF format should be sent to:
Mr. Charles Littrell
Inspector of Banks and Trust Companies
Central Bank of The Bahamas
cwlittrell@centralbankbahamas.com

Call For Attendees

We also seek expressions of interest from prospective attendees, who will be limited in number. We expect that attendees will either use or produce AML/CFT relevant research in their current professional capacities. As with authorial candidates, the Selection Committee reserves the right to select attendees should there be more interest than seating capacity.

For your registration, send your resume to:

asba@asbasupervision.org;
cwlittrell@centralbankbahamas.com

Conference Arrangements

The conference will feature long-form presentation and discussion of selected submitted papers. Per the following draft agenda, and depending upon the papers submitted, the conference contemplates four paper discussion sessions over the conference's two days. These sessions will be devoted to presenting and discussing research papers, with papers in each session displaying some overlap in approach. The conference will also hold four moderated discussions, which may also feature relevant papers, addressing the following issues:

1. **What data do we have, and what data do we need, for better AML/CFT research?**
Moderator: Professor Michael Levi, University of Cardiff.
2. **What empirical insight is the global AML practitioner community seeking from the academy ?**
Moderator: TBA
3. **Where are the empirics in sovereign AML/CFT risk ratings?**
Moderator: Professor Jason Sharman, University of Cambridge.

4. What empirical support is the global AML academy seeking from the AML practitioner community?

Moderator TBA.

Attendance is limited to approximately 16 authors, and up to 40 other participants from academia, public service, and practitioner sectors.

The Central Bank of The Bahamas intends to issue an online Proceedings from the conference, comprising the presented papers and summaries of the related discussions. Copyright will remain with the paper authors.

Financial Arrangements

The sponsors will provide an honorarium intended to cover the cost of attendance for accepted authors, when authors seek this support.

There are no fees for the accepted attendees; however, they must fund their travel and lodging costs.

Summary

The sponsors consider that this conference will encourage a more useful balance between empirical and non-empirical approaches for AML/CFT research and policy analysis, both in the Caribbean and globally. We look forward to hosting an insightful and useful event.

Prospective Agenda

Day 1: 22 January 2020

- 8:00 Registration.
- 8:45 Welcome and introduction.
- 9:00 **Papers Discussion Session 1:** Author summaries, discussion on presented papers, open discussion.
- 11:00 Break.
- 11:30 **Presentation and Moderated Discussion 1:** “What data do we have, and what data do we need, for better AML/CFT research?”
Moderator: Professor Michael Levi, University Cardiff.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 1:30 **Papers Discussion Session 2:** Author summaries, discussion on presented papers, open discussion.
- 3:30 Break.
- 4:00 **Presentation and Moderated Discussion 2:** What empirical insight is the global AML practitioner community seeking from the academy?
Moderator: TBA.
- 5:30 Break.
- 6:00 Cocktails and conference dinner.

Day 2: 23 January 2020

- 9:00 **Papers Discussion Session 3:** Author summaries, discussion on presented papers, open discussion.
- 11:00 Break.
- 11:30 **Presentation and Moderated Discussion 3:** “Where are the empirics in sovereign AML/CFT risk ratings?”
Moderator: Professor Jason Sharman, University of Cambridge.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 1:30 **Papers Discussion Session 4:** Author summaries, discussion on presented papers, open discussion.
- 3:30 Break.
- 4:00 **Presentation and Moderated Discussion 4:** What empirical support is the global AML academy seeking from the AML practitioner community?
- 5:30 Conference summary.
- 6:00 Conference close.