The Laboratory for Incentivization, Coordination and Cooperation

Designing rigorous instruments of incentivization and coordination to foster ethical, meaningful cooperation across scales

Principal Investigators:

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A New Laboratory for Incentivization, Coordination and Cooperation Studies

The LICC is a private research institute focused on design questions surrounding multi-scale human coordination and governance. We see the *theory of the firm*[1] evolving in the small and the large: the nature and function of various institutions in society continue to drift, even as new possibilities of sovereignty for organizations become possible via adoption of programmable assets (e.g. digital assets on a blockchain) as well as tailored automations (e.g. AI agents).

The goal of this research institute is to direct first-principles, academically-rigorous inquiry into incentivization and coordination design, with a mind towards the concept of *show me the incentives and I'll show you the outcome*. Example lines of questioning in scope include: how to structure productive organizations, how to compensate participating agents, what are the primitives of coordination protocol design, what are the design landscapes of feasible coordination protocols, how to design countries' infrastructure to leverage digital assets and AI agent automations in service of human flourishing.

A particular focus for the LICC is the design, development, and evolution of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) around the world. We treat SEZs not merely as bounded jurisdictions with exceptional legal and economic

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_the_firm

privileges, but as programmable, testable substrates for institutional and infrastructural experimentation. Drawing on frameworks developed through Mass[2] and Momentum[3], we approach SEZs as living laboratories for incentivization and coordination—enabling the deployment of novel economic protocols, AI-powered legal-financial infrastructure, modular governance systems, and regenerative urban design. Our work spans from the formal modeling of zone-internal incentive structures, to the architectural and technological scaffolding required to support dynamic, participatory governance and compliance automation. We investigate how SEZs can serve as minimally viable polities for exploring new modes of human-machine-institutional cooperation: from smart asset origination and earned-equity land systems, to hyperstructural public goods funding and stakeholder-aligned reputation systems. Through rigorous design and empirical iteration, we aim to shift SEZs from instruments of extractive growth to crucibles for equitable development, cultural dignity, and planetary-scale experimentation in the coordination of flourishing.

Framing and Emphasis: Human Flourishing, Humanistic, Systems-and-incentives-focused, Governance-aware, Intentional Design
Scope: Coordination and Cooperation: Across Human-Machine, Human-Human and Machine-Machine, flourishing and growth, ethics, dignity, liability and culpability, Governance, Incentivization, economic/governance efficiency
Methodological Focus: Design, human-computer interaction (HCI), Network Theory, Distributed Systems Theory, Economic theory, incentives, coordination protocols, hyperstructures
Outputs: First-principles analysis, Interfaces & systems, simulations, participatory design, protocol design, incentive design, hyperstructure design
Audience and Partners: Academics, civic platforms, venture funds, technically-oriented institutions, governmental bodies, special economic zones, special administrative regions & countries.

Research Vision

The Laboratory for Incentivization, Coordination and Cooperation (LICC) investigates the complex interplay between human, machine, and institutional actors, aiming to design innovative systems that foster ethical, dignified, and efficient cooperation. Grounded in humanistic principles, systems thinking, and rigorous analysis of incentives and governance structures, our research spans human-human, human-machine, and machine-machine interactions.

We explore:

- How incentive structures and governance frameworks can amplify cooperation and flourishing across diverse systems.

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[2] https://docsend.com/view/wtbr7cfyfhckanht and 📄 Smart Assets
[3] 📄 [WIP] Momentum High Level Overview

- Ethical implications, liability, and accountability within interconnected human-machine ecosystems.
- Practical and philosophical dimensions of governance, incentivization, and economic efficiency.
- The potential of emerging technologies—hyperstructures, programmable assets, and AI-driven agents—to redefine organizational sovereignty and systemic collaboration.

By integrating first-principles economic theory, distributed systems, network theory, and human-computer interaction, we prototype interfaces, protocols, simulations and organizations that advance adaptive, resilient, and ethically grounded cooperation.

Research Themes

- Multi-scale coordination and incentivization across human, machine, and institutional actors
- Ethical design and governance of human-machine and machine-machine ecosystems
- Network theory and distributed system applications for robust coordination
- Liability, culpability, and ethics in algorithmic and automated governance
- Design and evaluation of hyperstructures and decentralized organizational forms
- Incentive-driven protocols for governance, economic efficiency, and systemic resilience
- Participatory frameworks for equitable decision-making and community flourishing

Research Outputs

- First-principles analyses of incentive mechanisms and coordination structures
- Interfaces and interactive systems facilitating complex institutional interactions
- Simulations and computational models of alternative governance and economic structures
- Participatory design frameworks involving diverse stakeholders (e.g., civic groups, government bodies, startups)
- Rigorous incentive and coordination protocol designs applicable across multiple domains
- Hyperstructure designs and implementations demonstrating decentralized governance and incentivization strategies
- Thought leadership synthesizing philosophical rigor, economic theory, and pragmatic governance practices

Research Candidates

We invite candidates who:

- Combine analytical rigor with philosophical and ethical reflection

- Have experience or interest in interface and systems design, distributed systems, network theory, or economic and governance protocols
- Demonstrate capacity to translate theoretical insights into actionable, human-centered tools
- Approach complex systemic problems with intellectual curiosity, humility, and ethical awareness
- Are committed to fostering inclusive, equitable, and meaningful outcomes

Strategic Partnerships

We actively collaborate with:

- Academic researchers across economics, governance, network theory, ethics, and human-computer interaction
- Civic technology platforms fostering democratic participation and ethical governance
- Ethical venture funds and investment institutions exploring innovative incentivization models
- Technically-oriented institutions developing programmable assets, decentralized governance, and AI-driven coordination systems
- Governmental bodies and policymakers involved in designing regulatory frameworks, special economic zones, and special administrative regions
- Practitioners and designers working at the intersection of community engagement, governance innovation, and equitable economic systems