Short portrait of UZH participant

Zürich meets Hong Kong

Thomas Puschmann:
Business informatics expert Dr. Thomas Puschmann has headed the newly established Swiss FinTech Innovation Lab at the University of Zurich (UZH) since 2016. The lab is a joint initiative run by the departments of Informatics and Banking and Finance at UZH. The aim is to develop innovative fintech approaches and solutions as well as offering teaching in the field and supporting start-ups. Thomas Puschmann also directs the Swiss Fintech Innovations association.

Cooperation with Hong Kong
Since 2016, Thomas Puschmann has been cooperating with the City University of Hong Kong’s Center on Global Internet Finance (CGIF), founded at the end of 2015. He is a member of the center’s advisory committee.

His main partner there is J. Leon Zhao, Chair Professor of Information Systems and Director of the CGIF. Their collaboration has already borne fruit in the form of two joint conferences on smart internet finance held in 2016 and 2017. Thomas Puschmann and J. Leon Zhao have also co-authored a position paper, “Digital Banking 2015,” with researchers at Harvard and Standford.

Cooperation with Hong Kong is interesting for Thomas Puschmann because China is growing rapidly in fintech – and also because Switzerland can contribute a lot of know-how in this field. The partnership opens up an interesting center of research and business. Recently, for example, a bachelor’s student at UZH wrote a paper on bitcoin based on data from China that were available thanks to the cooperation with the City University of Hong Kong.

In the future, the idea is that collaboration between the Swiss FinTech Innovation Lab and the Center on Global Internet Finance will result in joint research projects and exchanges of students and researchers. Puschmann could also imagine a master’s degree program offered jointly by UZH and the City University of Hong Kong.

Zürich meets Hong Kong
Thomas Puschmann will be in Hong Kong from 24 to 26 October for the Zürich meets Hong Kong event, and will be available for interviews. He will also be hosting an academic panel discussion and the following public festival event:

- FinTech and Data Ownership: Legal Issues of Digital Business Models (2.30-5pm, 26 October 2017)

This event is part of Hong Kong Fintech Week (23-27 October 2017).
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Links
Swiss Fintech Innovation Lab
http://www.fintech.uzh.ch/en.html

Dr. Thomas Puschmann
http://www.fintech.uzh.ch/en/contact.html

Joint summit on smart internet finance
http://45.32.20.160/ISSF/about.html

“Digital Banking 2025” position paper

Center on Global Internet Finance (CGIF)
http://epic.is.cityu.edu.hk/CenterGIF/index.htm

Professor J. Leon Zhao
https://www.cb.cityu.edu.hk/staff/jlzhaow/