

Bill Maurer

Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Professor, Anthropology and Law at UC Irvine
Irvine, CA, US

Bill Maurer is an anthropologist and expert on money's artifacts and technologies, from cowries to credit cards and cryptocurrencies.

Biography

Professor Maurer is a cultural anthropologist and sociolegal scholar. His most recent research looks at how professional communities (payments industry professionals, computer programmers and developers, legal consultants) conceptualize and build financial technology or "fintech," and how consumers use and experience it. More broadly, his work explores the technological infrastructures and social relations of exchange and payment, from cowries to credit cards and cryptocurrencies. As an anthropologist, he is interested in the broad range of technologies people have used throughout history and across cultures to figure value and conduct transactions. He has particular expertise in alternative and experimental forms of money and finance, payment technologies, and their legal implications. He has published on topics ranging from offshore financial services to mobile phone-enabled money transfers, Islamic finance, alternative currencies, blockchain/distributed ledger systems, and the future of money. He is the Director of the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (www.imtfi.uci.edu). From 2008-2018, he coordinated research in over 40 countries on how new payment technologies impact people's well being. Highlights from IMTFI's research were published in *Money at the Margins: Global Perspectives on Technology, Financial Inclusion, and Design* (with Smoki Musaraj and Ivan Small). Since 2018, IMTFI has been the Filene Center of Excellence in Emerging Technology. With Filene, Maurer has been exploring how fintech impacts the credit union movement, exploring topics ranging from algorithmic bias in consumer-facing applications of AI, to the often-ambiguous lessons fintech apps teach their users. His research has had an impact on US and global policies for mobile payment and financial access, and it has been discussed in venues ranging from Bloomberg BusinessWeek to NPR's Marketplace and the Financial Times.

Areas of Expertise

Payments Industry, Law, Anthropology, Cryptocurrencies, Money and Finance, Consumer Finance

Affiliations

American Anthropological Association, American Ethnological Society, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Society for Humanistic Anthropology, Law and Society Association, Royal Institute for Linguistics and Anthropology (Netherlands), Social Science History Association

Education

Stanford University
PhD Anthropology

Stanford University
MA Anthropology

Vassar College
AB Anthropology, Women's Studies

Accomplishments

Dynamic Womxn of UCI Ally Award
2018

Fellow, Filene Research Institute
2018

Member, Sigma X
2016

Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
2016

Visiting Faculty, Microsoft Research New England, Cambridge, MA
2015

Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research, UC Irvine
2010

Lauds and Laurels Award for Faculty Achievement, UC Irvine Alumnae Association, UC Irvine
2011

[Please click here to view the full profile.](#)

This profile was created by [Expertfile.](#)