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**Article Review #1: Analysis of Romance Scams**

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The primary focus of this study was to examine how romance scams operate, the techniques scammers employ to deceive their victims, and the patterns of cryptocurrency laundering (Lim & Choi, 4). The dependent variables of the study include the monetary losses reported by the individuals involved and the total amount of money scammers received in their cryptocurrency wallets. The independent variables in this study include types of cryptocurrencies, financial deception strategies, and money laundering techniques and strategies (Lim & Choi, 11).

#### **Methods, data, and analysis**

This Study employed a mixed-methods approach, using data from self-reported romance scams and forensic techniques to investigate romance scams involving cryptocurrency on the blockchain (Lim & Choi, 8). They collected detailed first-person accounts of people who have fallen victim to romance scams. These submissions also required the inclusion of the victim's cryptocurrency address to ensure that they correctly reported their transactions (Lim & Choi, 8). When the researchers studied the data, they found that scammers would use Bitcoin and Ethereum on the blockchain to maximize their gains. In favor of other things like Direct cash deposit or money laundering tactics, due to their high market capitalization and liquidity. Scammers can also utilize a swap technique to decrease their traceability and lower the chances of getting caught by law enforcement (Lim & Choi, 13).

#### **Relation to social sciences and class material**

This article relates to material from the PowerPoint because it relates to the concept of victim precipitation (CYSE201S module 4). Victim precipitation is the idea that we can study the

behavior of victims and use the findings to predict and prevent cybercrimes. We can use the data from the study to educate people on romance scams and prevent others from falling victim to them. This study relates to social science principles because, in order for them to perform the study correctly, they had to use ethical neutrality and empiricism.

### **Effects on marginalized groups and contributions to society**

The overall contribution of this study is the recommended policies that have come from it. Based on their findings, they came up with ideas like establishing an awareness program to educate more people about romance scams, building cryptocurrency regulations in the government, and creating a unified global organization that can oversee cryptocurrency (Lim & Choi, 18). A marginalized group that these scams can affect is older adults. They have less awareness about online scams and are more likely to fall for them. This, coupled with the fact that they are more likely to be isolated and more susceptible to emotional manipulation, makes them at higher risk than other people.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study shines a light on the strategies used in cryptocurrency-based romance scams and the techniques scammers use to conceal the evidence. By using victim testimonies, the researchers give valuable insights into how scammers can exploit their victims. This study contributes to cybersecurity and promotes social awareness by using data-driven analysis.

### References

Lim, A. & Choi, K. (2025). Modus Operandi and Blockchain Analysis of Romance Scams: Cryptocurrency-Driven Victimization. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.52306/2578-3289.1220>

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