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10/2/2025

CYSE 201S

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ARTICLE REVIEW #1

Modus Operandi and Blockchain Analysis of Romance Scams: Cryptocurrency-Driven Victimization

Connections to Social Science Principles

The article relates to the principles of social sciences because it shows how individual behavior and social systems are connected very closely explores romance scams that use cryptocurrency, which reveals how our emotions like trusting someone, loving someone, and being vulnerable can be easily manipulated in digital spaces (Lim and Choi, 2025). The victims may feel like they are making a personal decision when sending money, but these decisions are shaped by a wide range of forces such as the designs of online platforms, a lack of strong regulation around cryptocurrencies, and the social pressure of wanting a connection with someone. This article uses social sciences to depict how human actions and motivations are influenced by both internal motivations and external structures.

Micro and Macro level Analysis of Cybercrime

The study reflects using a social science approach to understand the individuals' experiences and data to understand these problems. Combining real victim's stories which blockchain analysis can connect the micro level behaviors for example, one person transferring money, to macro level systems, such as international crime networks and financial technologies (Lim and Choi, 2025). Both qualitative and quantitative research shows how social sciences try to pursue describing issues but also explain why these issues happen and how they can fit into larger social patterns (Lim and Choi, 2025). Overall, the article emphasizes that cybercrime isn't just a problem because of technology but because it's a human and social problem and that shows us why it's a clear example of why social sciences are very valuable in society now.

Research Question and Variables

The study focuses on trying to understand how romance scammers use cryptocurrency in their operations. The research question would be, “How scammers, Modus Operandi, choose their choice of platforms they use to communicate, financial deception strategies, and laundering methods that are linked to the level of economic losses experienced by the victims. The article doesn’t state the hypothesis but it kind of implies the use of common cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum would be associated with higher losses by using mixers and sophisticated laundering techniques which they make difficult to follow the money trail which increases financial harm. Also, certain methods such as direct deposits and crypto swapping also correlate with lower losses. The independent variable would be the type of cryptocurrency that is being used, the laundering techniques, the platforms and the strategies that the scammers use to initiate and maintain relationships, and the methods of transferring funds. The dependent variable is the amount of money that is being lost by the victims which are measured at individual cluster levels. The study connects the scammers behaviors with the victims’ outcomes to show how using different techniques can kind of predict the levels of financial victimization.

Mixed Methods and Data Analysis

The study implements a mixed method approach, that is done by combining qualitative analysis of victim narratives with a quantitative blockchain tracing and statistical correlations (Lim and Choi, 2025). The qualitative portion of this study examines how Modus Operandi initiates, maintains, and exploit their online relationships. The quantitative portion analyzes the transaction data on the blockchains, tracing the cryptocurrency flow that goes through various laundering methods. The data that includes the case reports from victims of romance scams as well as blockchain transaction data that tracks how cryptocurrency was moved and laundered

(Lim and Choi, 2025). The victim reports provided insight into the emotional and social aspects of the scams, while blockchain data revealed the technical and financial strategies used by the scammers. The analysis involved both descriptive methods such as outlining common scammer techniques and statistical correlations like testing whether certain laundering strategies predicted a greater economic loss. Combining these types of data, the study was able to connect human experiences with financial and technological evidence (Lim and Choi, 2025).

Vulnerability, Marginalization, and Social Impact

The article doesn't identify specific marginalized groups by name, but it does emphasize that romance scam victims are made vulnerable through emotional manipulation, lack of digital literacy, and lack of awareness of cryptocurrency systems (Lim and Choi, 2025). These factors increase the risk of exploitation by showing how certain individuals maybe excessively affected depending on their access to resources and knowledge. The study also makes a broader contribution to society by combing the blockchain analysis with the victim case reports which offers a clearer picture of how these scams operate. By looking at both the tech side and the human side, the study gives us useful insights that can help create better programs, guide policies, and raise public awareness in communities with the goal of lowering the financial and emotional harm caused by these scams (Lim and Choi, 2025).

Conclusion

This article highlights how deeply human behavior can be influenced by both our personal emotions and the social systems. By analyzing the romance scams involving cryptocurrency, it reveals the emotional and technological vulnerabilities that these scammers abuse. The study's mixed methods approach connects these personal experiences to financial and

digital structures. Overall, the article shows how its important to use social sciences to understand and address modern cybercrimes.

REFERENCE PAGE

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