

**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Physics Colloquium**

**Slaying the Online Hydra of  
Hate, Distrust and Anti-Science**

**Prof. Neil Johnson**

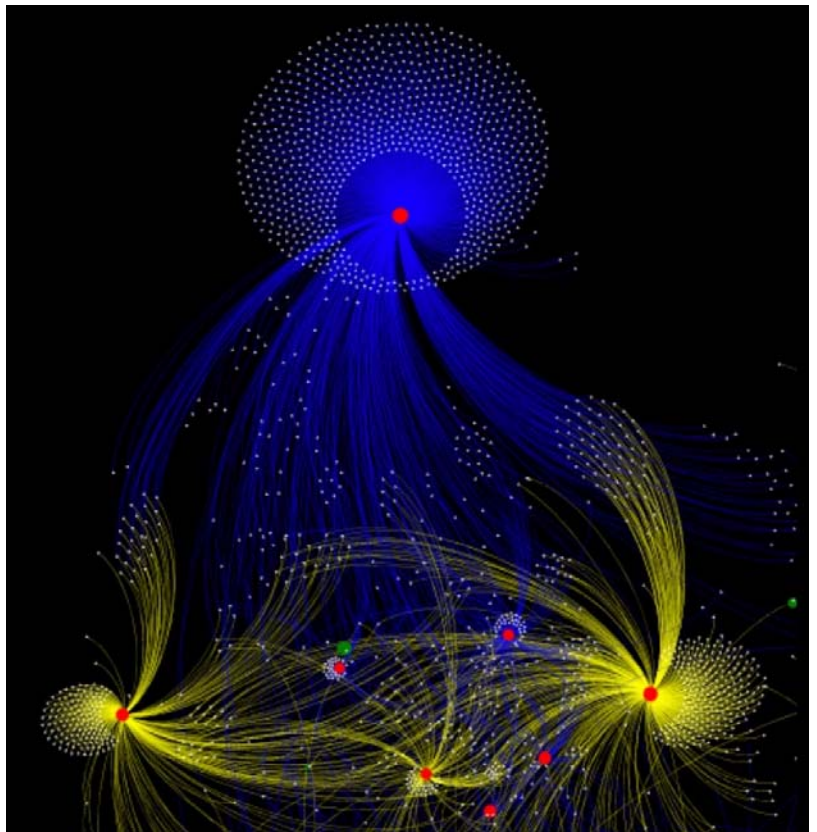
*George Washington University*

Love may be in the air — but hate and distrust are thriving on the Internet [1]. In addition to politics, medical science and science are also under attack. Despite having access to state-of-the-art Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence tools, social media platforms such as Facebook appear unable to keep it under control. In this talk, I show why this is, and how the Physics of out-of-equilibrium networks provides a new understanding that leads to a policy matrix of novel interventions.

Work done with Dr. Nicolas Velasquez, Rhys Leahy, Nicholas J. Restrepo, Sara El Oud, Nick Gabriel, Rick Sear, Om Jha Kant.

Collaboration with the new GW Knight Foundation-funded Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics.

[1] N.F. Johnson et al., Hidden resilience and adaptive dynamics of the global online hate ecology, *Nature*, Sept. 12, 2019.



**TIME:** 4:00-5:00 pm, Thursday, September 26, 2019  
(refreshments: 3:30 pm upstairs by the 4<sup>th</sup> floor pantry)

**PLACE:** 101 Corcoran Hall, GWU

725 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW

**METRO STATION:** GWU/FOGGY BOTTOM (BLUE & ORANGE LINES)