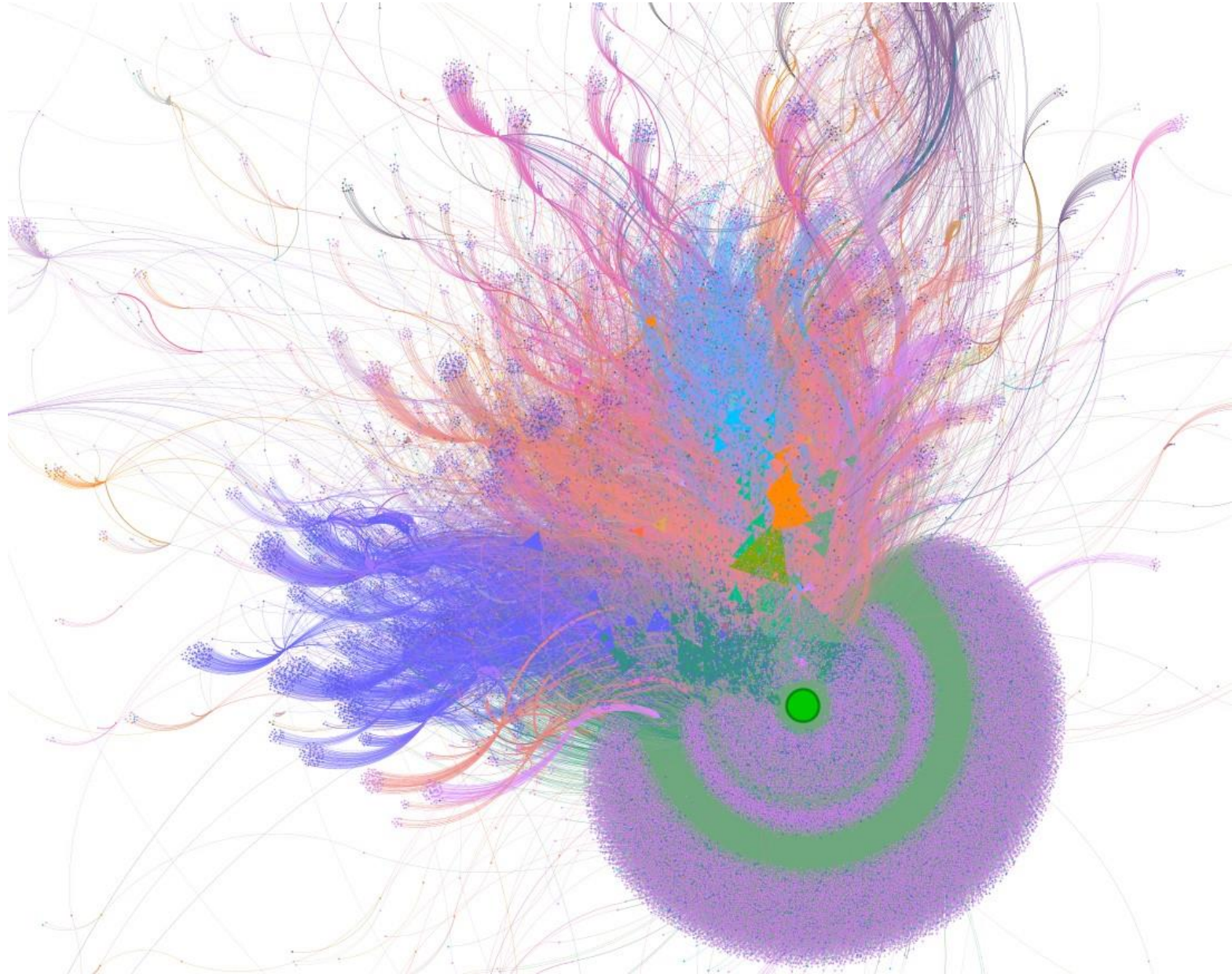# How the US Presidential Elections and the Capitol Attack Shaped the Online Hate Landscape

by Akshay Verma
   MS Data Science

How the Data was collected
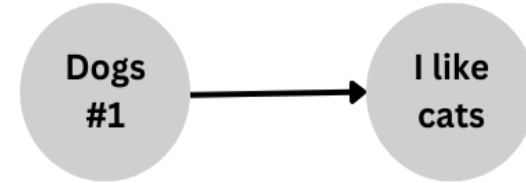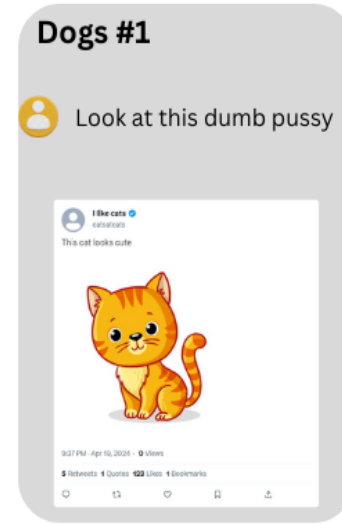
Started by Identifying Hate Communities

↓

**Monitored the Communities for Cross-Posts**

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If a user in a hate community posted a link to another community, a directed edge was established from the hate community towards the linked community

- While all the source nodes belong to identified hate communities, the target nodes may or may not belong to identified hate communities.

- In addition to monitoring cross-posting activities within these hate communities, the posts were also classified to identify text targeting race, gender, religion, anti semitism, gender identity/sexual orientation (GISO), immigration, and ethnicity/identitarian/nationalism (EIN)

What I noticed
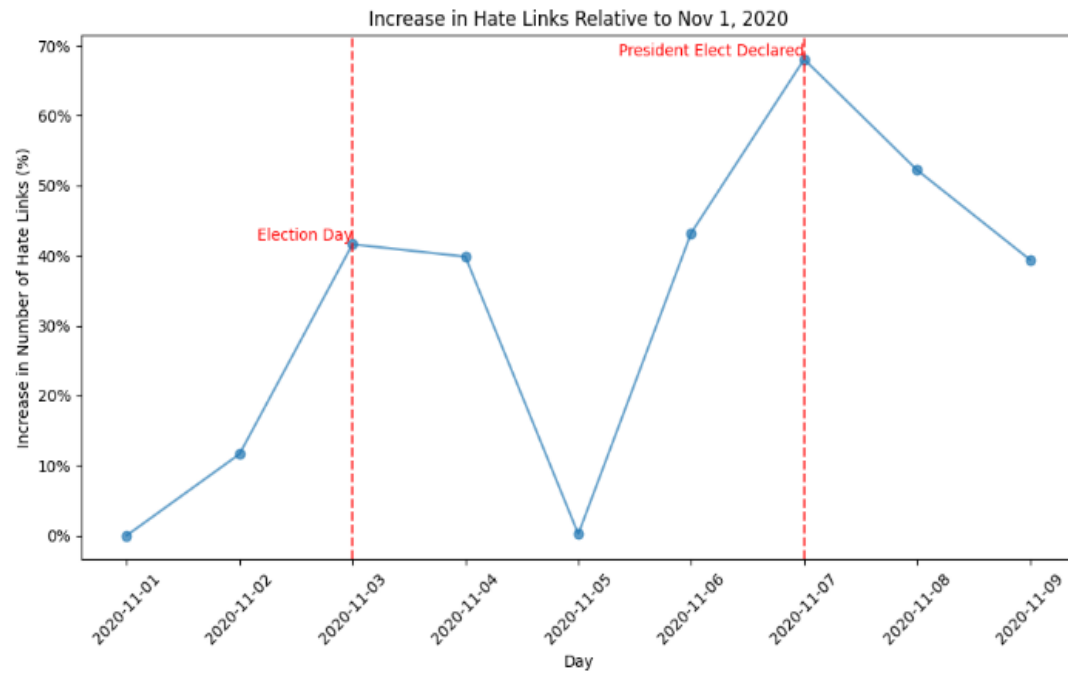
40% increase in hate links on the day of election

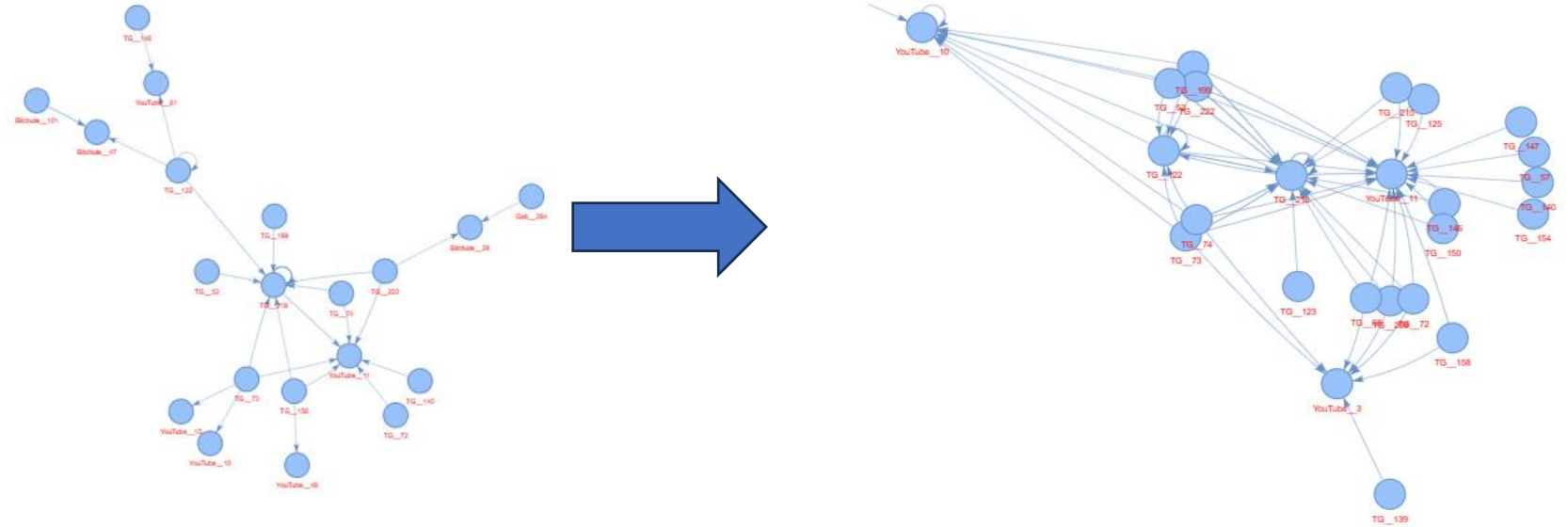**70%** increase on the day of result.
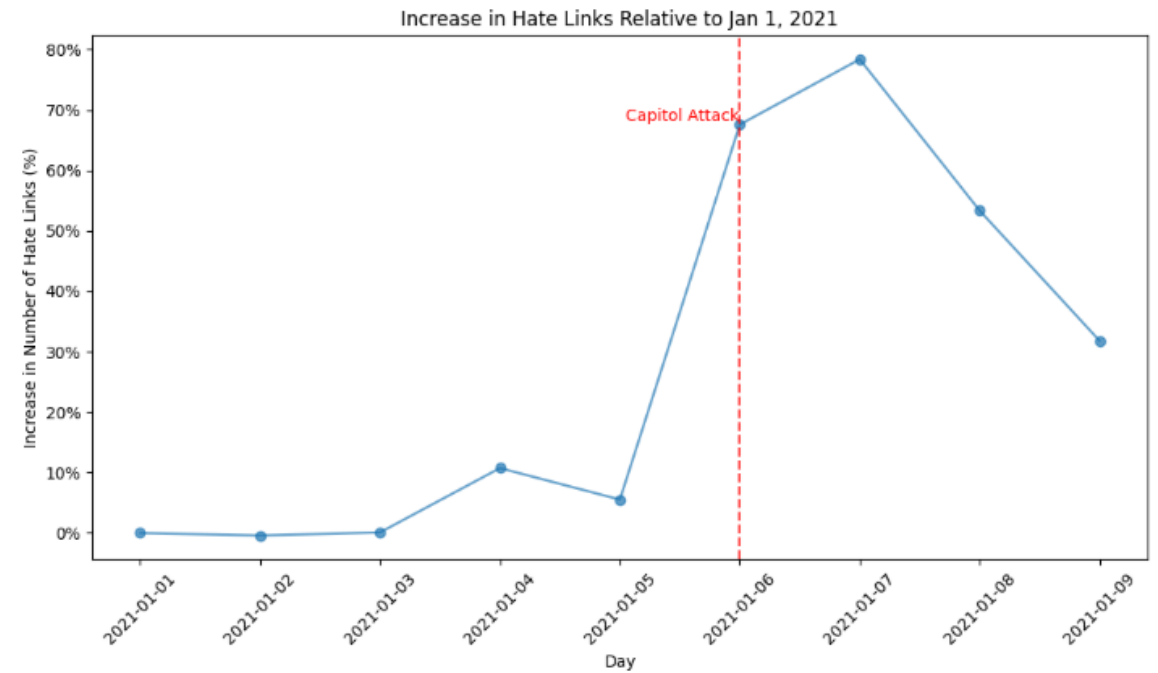
70% increase on the day of Capitol attacks

What did the increase resulted in:

Increase in Cohesion
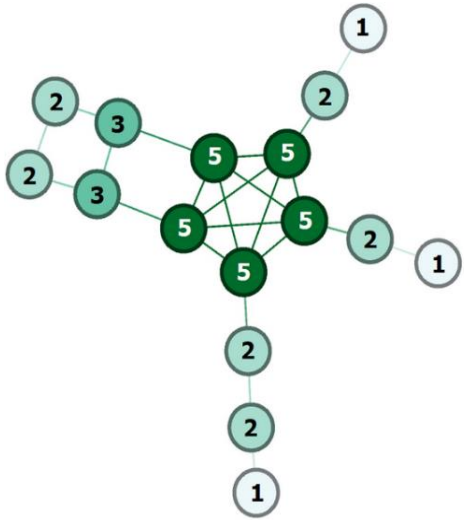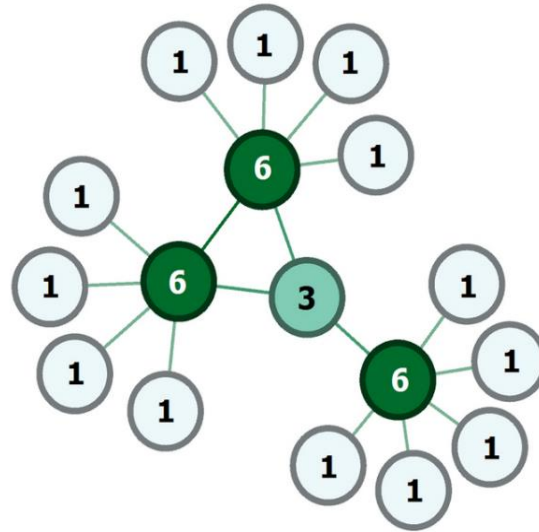
Increase in Clustering

- 160% increase in clustering coefficient after the Capitol Attacks and 13% after the Elections

- An increase in clustering coefficient means that a greater proportion of neighboring nodes are forming closed triangles, enhancing local network cohesion

- Individual nodes within the hate network became more interconnected and entrenched within their specific group

What did the increase resulted in:

Increase in Assortativity

(a) Assortative network

(b) Disassortative network

Assortative networks connect similar nodes (birds of a feather flock together), while disassortative networks connect different ones (opposites attract).

- 25.1% increase in Assortativity after the Capitol attacks

- The important hubs in each cluster are connecting to each other more after the attacks

- Implies a greater transfer of information and traffic between the prominent hate spreaders

- Leads to strengthening of existing ideologies within the network, fostering a more homogenous and an environment resilient to outside intervention

What did the increase resulted in:

Individual communities joining to become larger community

- 25% decrease in the number of communities after capitol attacks

- 25% increase in the size of the largest community after capitol attacks

Jan 1 - Jan 5, 2021

■	YouTube
■	Twitter
■	Bitchute
■	TG
■	Gab
■	Rumble
■	Reddit
■	FB

Jan 6 - Jan 10, 2021
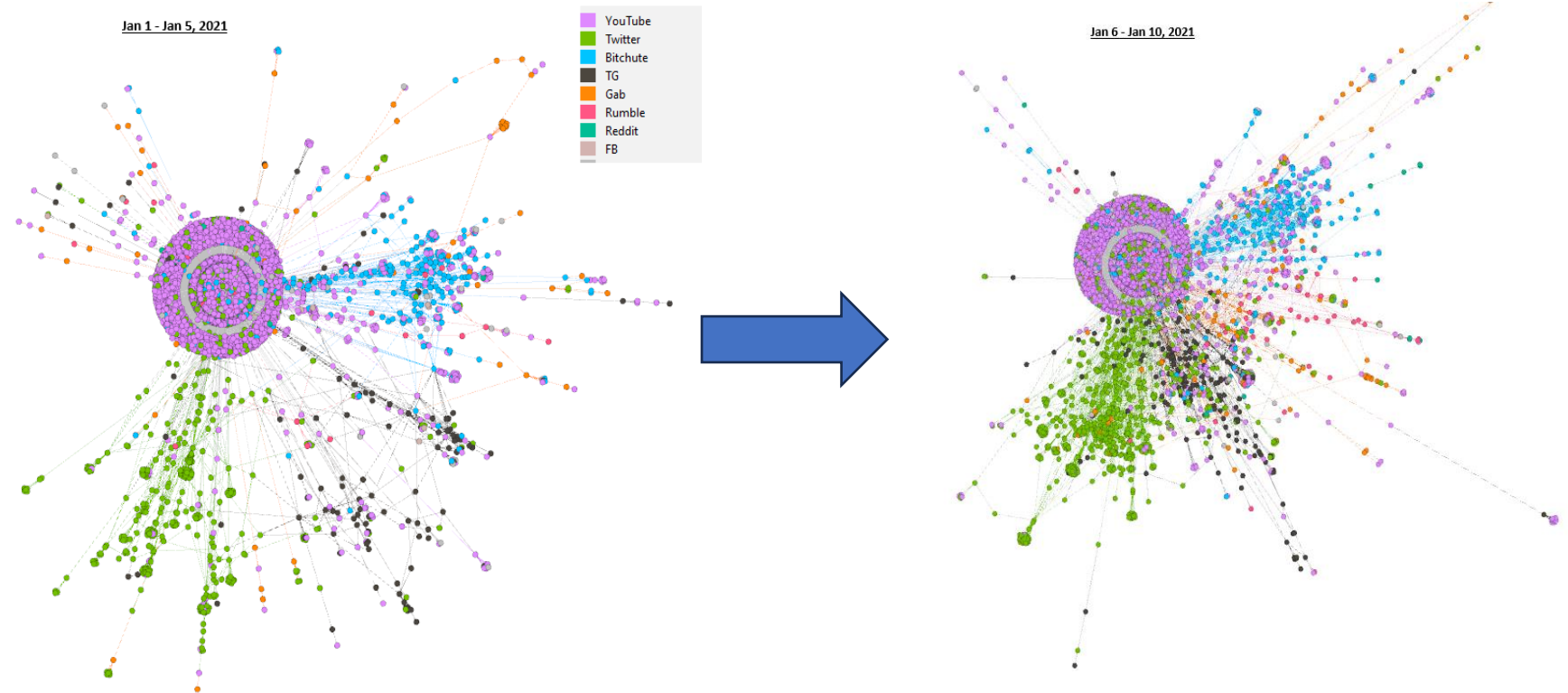
- **What it means -** **S**maller communities getting absorbed into the larger community

- **What it implies -** Suggests a potential convergence towards a more unified ideology.

So what changed inside the network

- Following the election results a 269.5% surge in anti-immigration sentiments, a 98.7% rise in ethnically-based hatred, and a 117.57% escalation in expressions of antisemitism

- These trends are indicative of the immigration anxieties harbored by far-right communities, which often align with the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, attributing perceived demographic shifts to Jewish influence

- Following the Capitol attack on January 6th, a comparable increase in anti-immigration sentiments was evident, with a notable 108.69%

Change in Hate Type after Joe Biden becomes the president-elect (Nov 7, 2020)

Change in Hate Type after January 6 Capitol attack
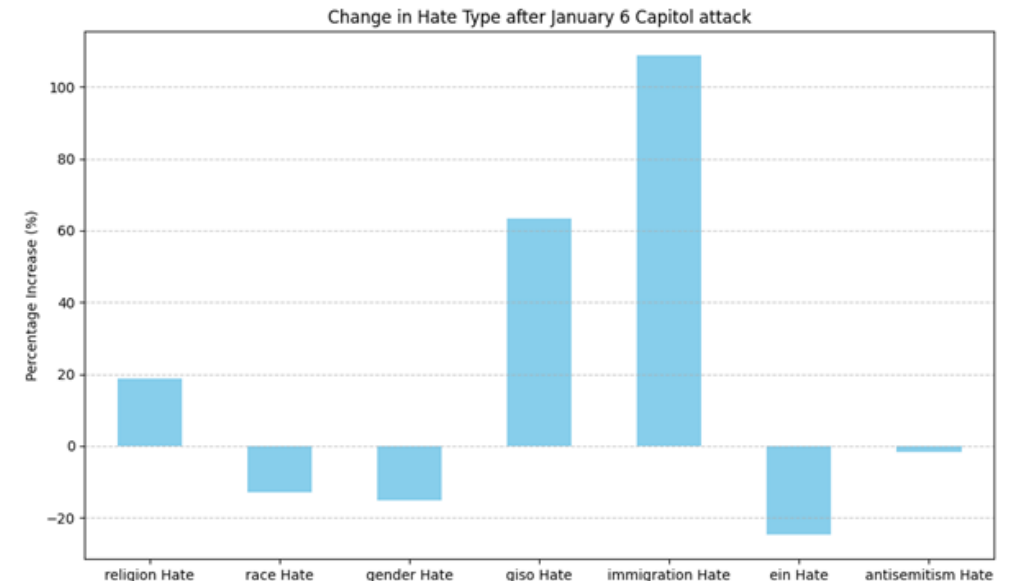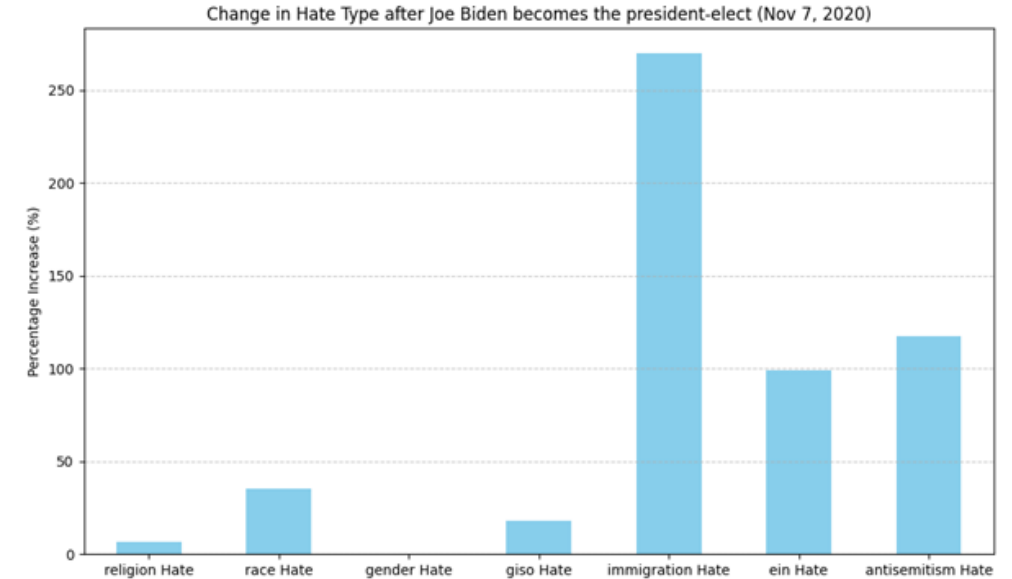
So, Who did it?

Increase in Activity from 4chan, Gab, Telegram, and Twitter is strongly correlated to increase in hate speech targeting Race, Immigration, and Gender Identity.
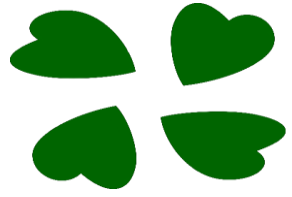
These platforms share characteristics of limited content moderation and a focus on user anonymity.

Correlation Heatmap between daily edge and hate type count across different SNS

Hate Type Detected	4Chan	Bitchute	FB	Gab	Rumble	TG	Twitter	VK	YouTube
Antisemitism	0.40	0.27	0.16	0.34	0.09	0.39	0.45	0.06	0.12
EIN hate	0.65	-0.00	0.25	0.41	-0.04	0.35	0.48	0.15	0.14
GISO hate	0.82	-0.14	0.38	0.79	-0.04	0.79	0.71	0.22	0.38
Gender hate	0.27	0.01	0.30	0.23	0.06	0.41	0.04	0.09	0.09
Immigration hate	0.74	-0.17	0.32	0.61	-0.09	0.50	0.63	0.28	0.26
Race hate	0.74	0.01	0.30	0.65	-0.02	0.67	0.77	0.26	0.25
Religion hate	0.17	-0.11	0.08	0.09	0.02	-0.12	-0.09	-0.17	-0.15

Social Networking Site

So, Who did it?

4chan is an imageboard website known for its lack of user accounts, and diverse boards covering a wide range of topic and controversial discussions.

4chan is overwhelmingly the biggest Hub of traffic in the Hate Network
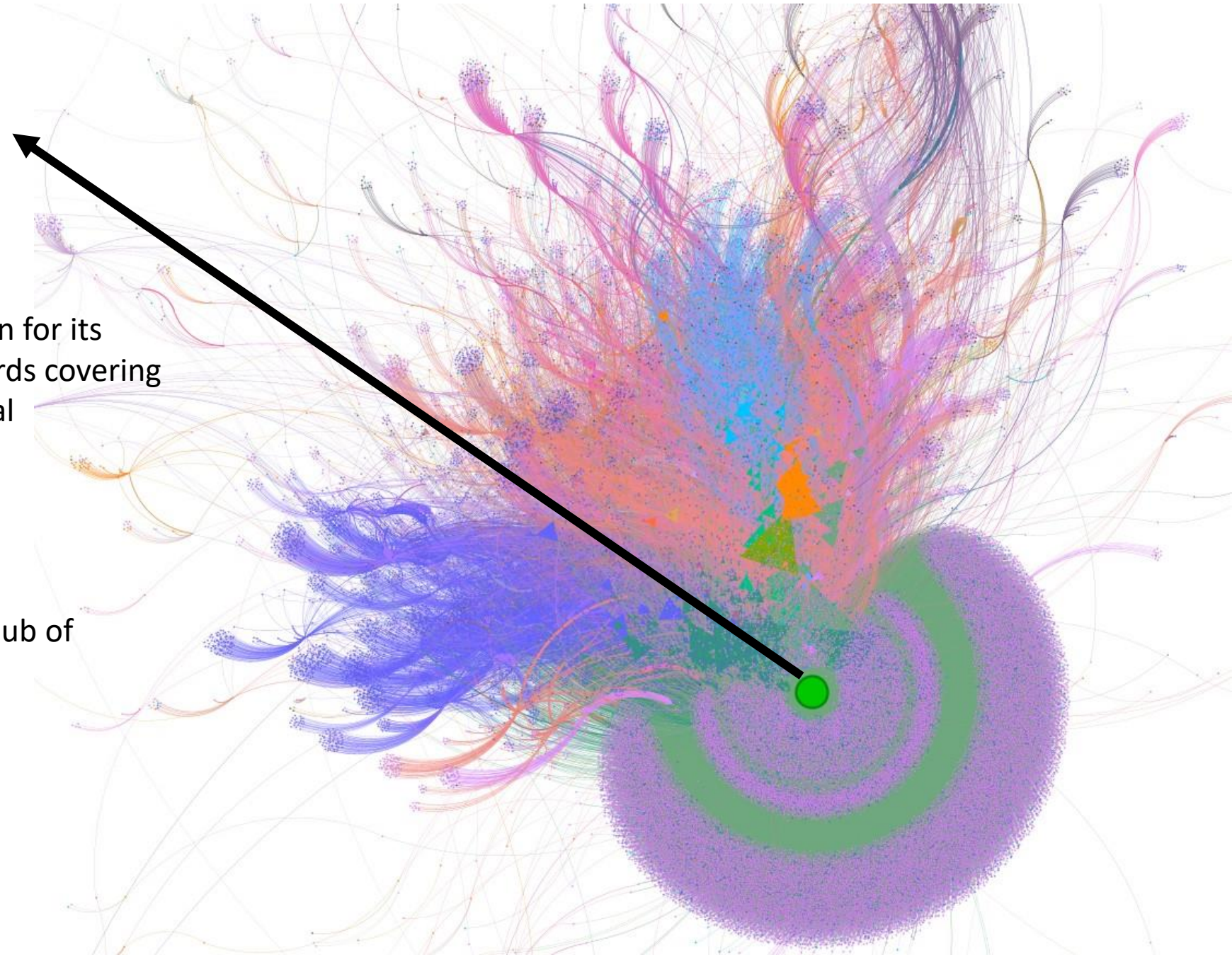
So, Who did it?

Telegram

- 300% increase in the number of connections involving Telegram after the elections

- Telegram's representation as a target node increased from 18.22% to 33.47%, while its presence as a source node increased from 21.73% to 37.24% of all links present in the hate core network after election
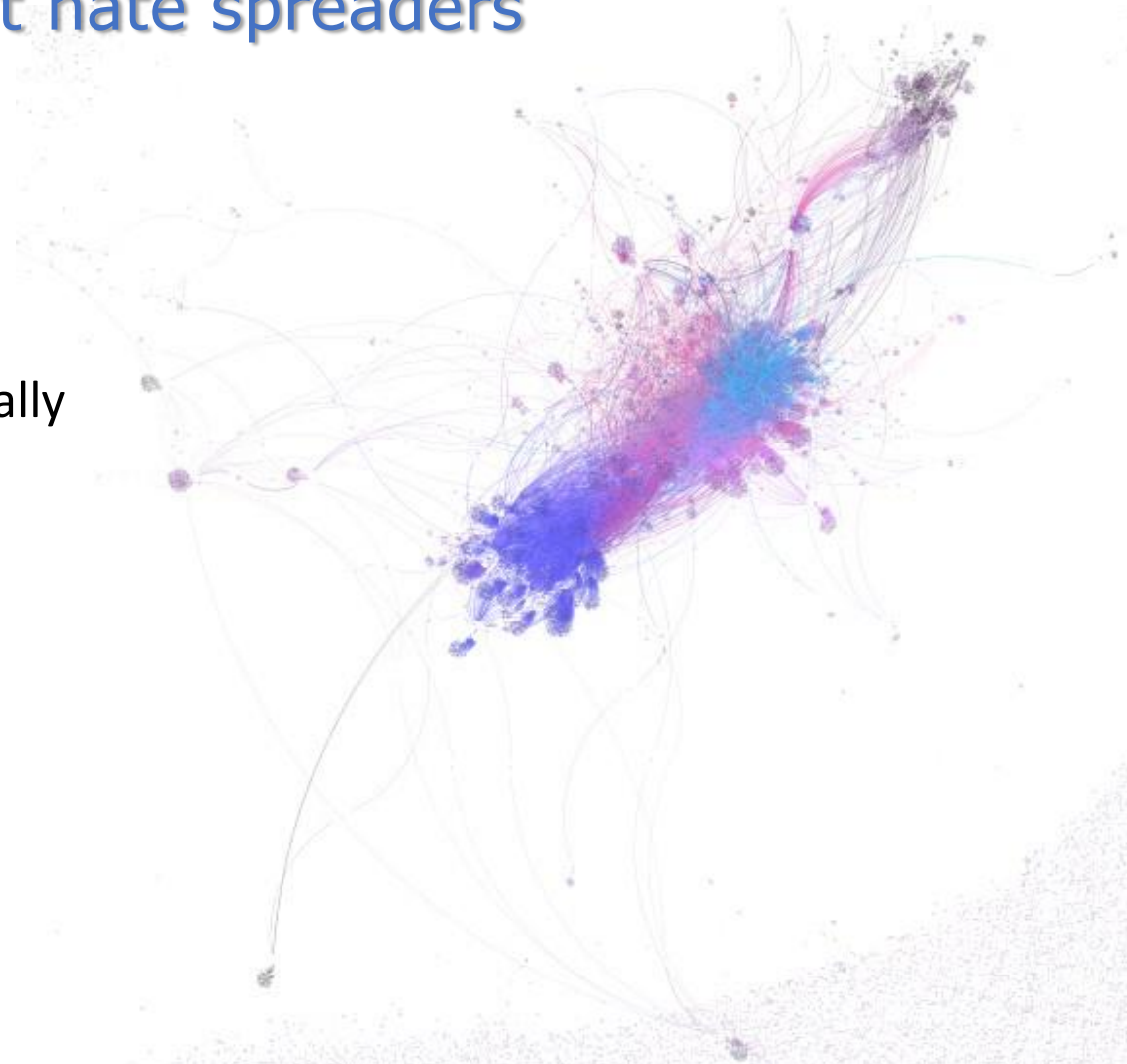

Nov 1- 3, 2020

Nov 4- 7, 2020
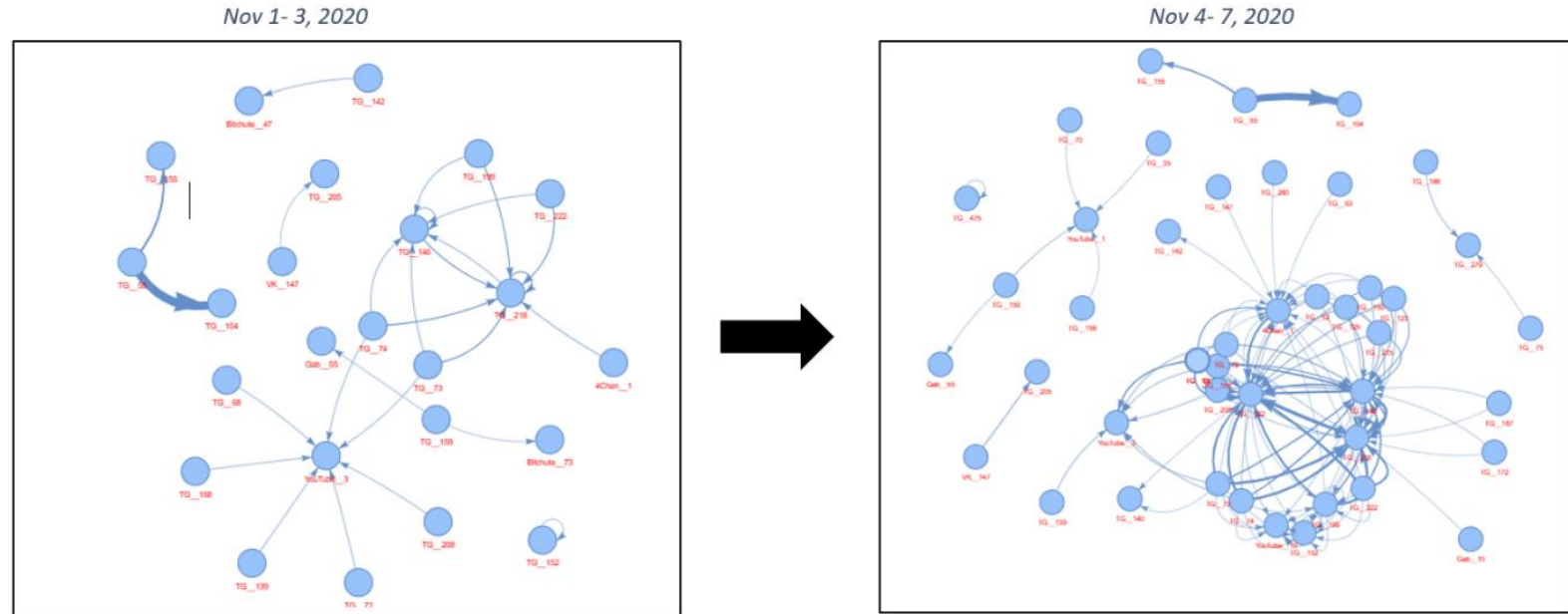
- **Community of interest -** "US Voter Fraud & Coup-OpsIntel 2020– 2022" a telegram channel which was initially absent from the network between before the elections, rapidly ascended to become one of the most crucial and interconnected nodes after the election.
- Moreover, it exhibits strong associations with two other Telegram channels, one called the reality report a right wing podcast, and another right-wing telegram channel named "Exposing Cultural Marxism", both of which were highly active in the network before the elections..

What can be done

Containment of the important hate spreaders

- Knocking out 4Chan and Telegram drastically decreases the cohesion in the network

- This directly translates to stopping to the proliferation of hate speech

- The clustering coefficient decreased by 57%, the size of the largest community decreases by 72%, and the number of communities increase by 47473%.

How these results differ from any random interval

% increase in the number of links relative to the first day