Engaging Online
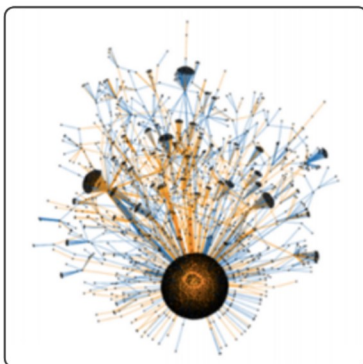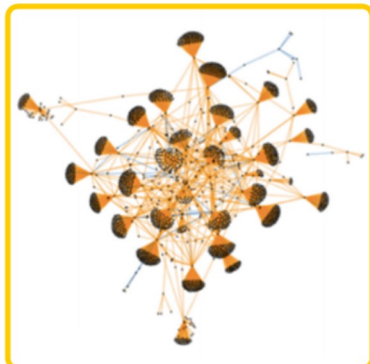
- Source: political communication on Twitter
- Want to know:
  - How people fall into structural patterns when engaging with each other online
  - Whether a communication source is trustworthy
- Observations:
  - There appeared to be coordinated groups of actors.
  - Centrally controlled bots created the false appearance of consensus.

Color Commentary

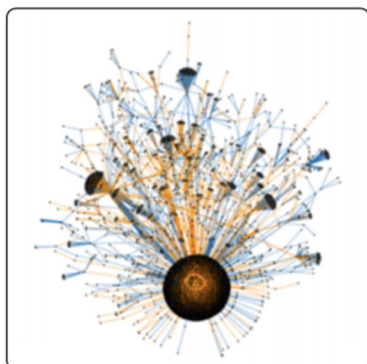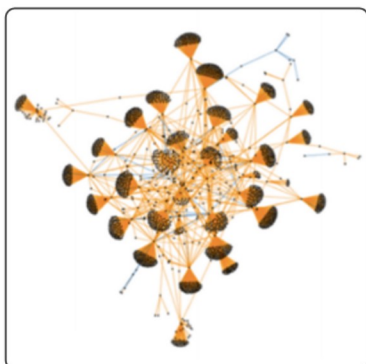@whitehouse   #RSVP

- Each point is a Twitter user.
- Lines show interactions.
  - Retweet
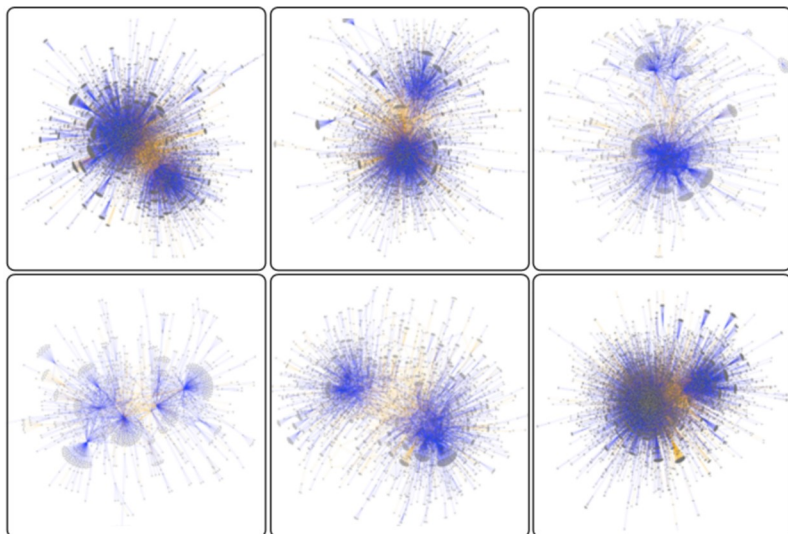 - @username

Color Commentary (cont.)

@whitehouse

#RSVP

The organic political communication and the propaganda campaign have different structural properties that could be distinguished through machine learning.
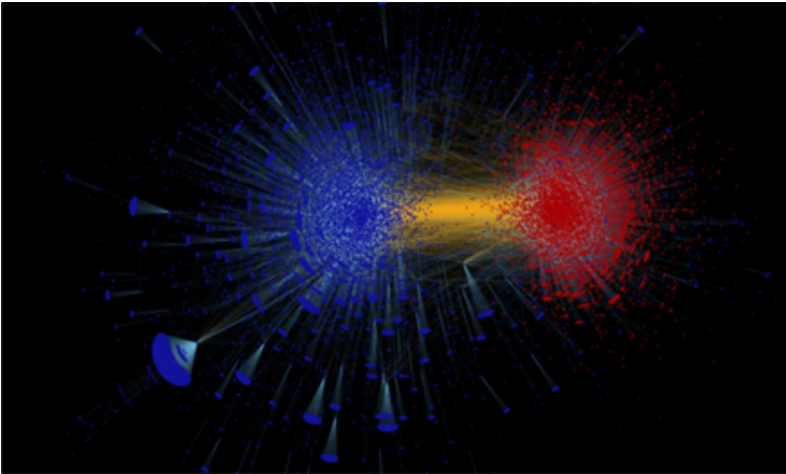
Flock Together

Structural networks describing hashtags in the Twitter stream:

The Echo Chamber

- In aggregate, is highly clustered by political party
- Balances quantitative and qualitative methods
    - Took 1,000 random accounts from the network
    - Had three human annotators assign to each: left, right, or unknown

Always consider how you can take a full-spectrum approach.