



Wikipedia

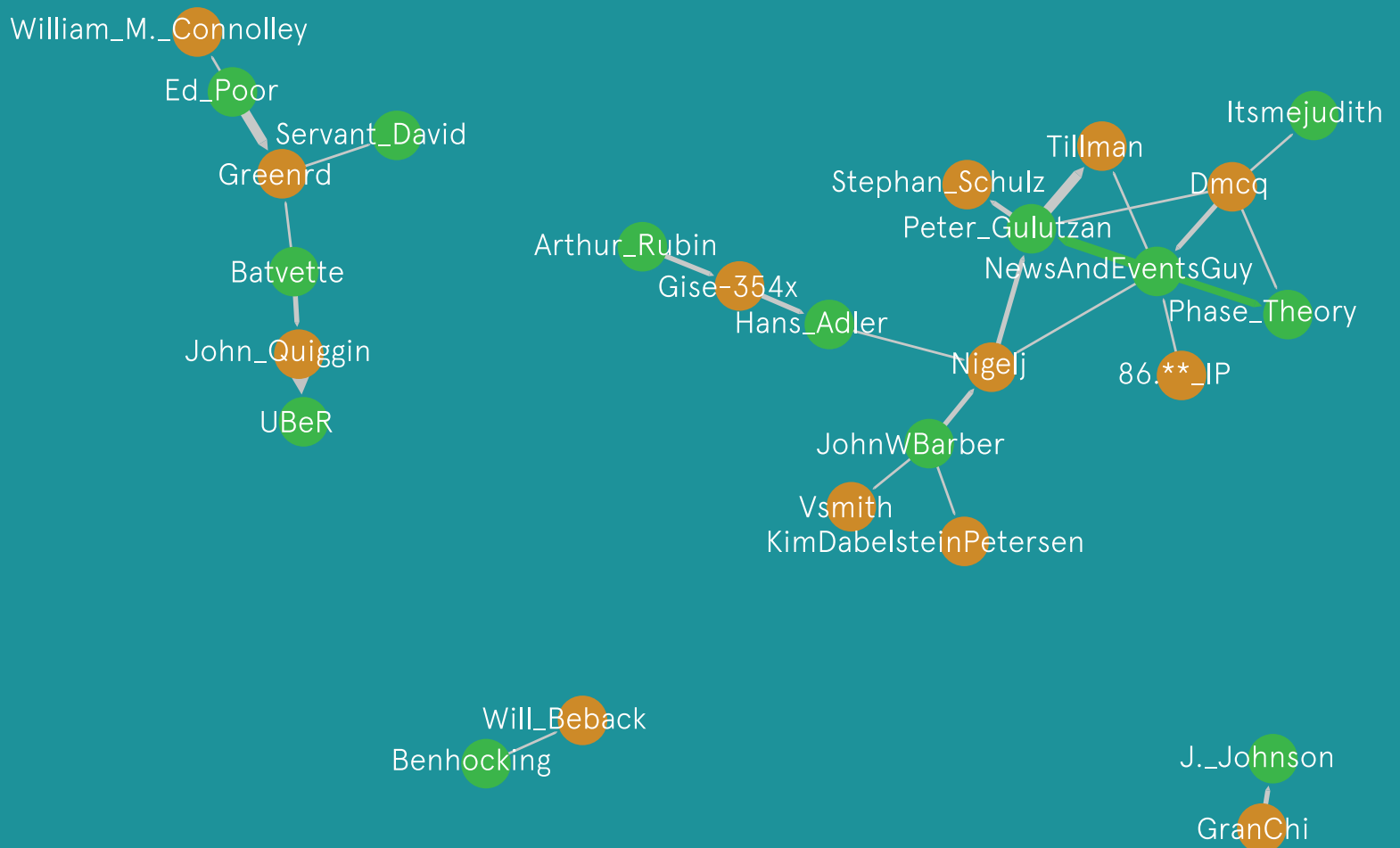
## WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE

GLOBAL WARMING CONSPIRACY THEORY



## ALGORITHM-BASED NETWORK

REPLY CHAIN NETWORK CREATED BY  
THE ALGORITHM



## RESEARCH QUESITON

How reliable is the algorithm-based network segregation? Can the colors be interpreted as referring to different factions? Are the interactions well-rappresented in the network?



Manual

## THREAD ANALYSIS

Thread data manual collection, starting from the users that appear in the algorithm-based network

Tagging: user | archives | thread title | user comments | other users in the same thread | each user comment in a specific thread | total comments per thread.

Threads with one comment : edit explanation  
Threads with two comments: edit explanation and others users relative agreement

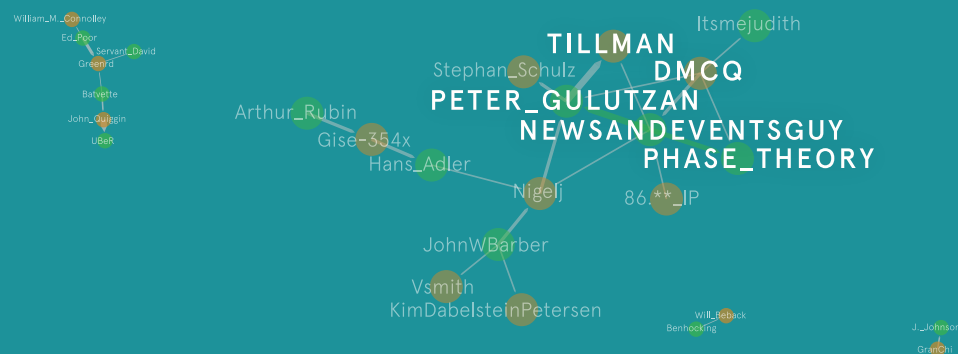


Identification of: the most commented threads, threads with the highest number of participants, user that has made the highest number of comments (overall), user that has made the highest number of comments (in a single thread), users' co-participation in threads



## NETWORK STUDY

Identification of the most active users  
- According to manually collected data  
- Looking at the algorithm-based network



Analysis of the discussions with the highest participation of the chosen-users and the highest number of different users' comments.

Analysed threads: Ambiguous phrase | PVO issues |  
"Claims of counter conspiracy" renamed | Funding |  
Removing distorted quote

## FINDINGS | CONSIDERATIONS

Interactions between users:

sometimes answers do not follow the structural rules. Users cite each other (both, with or without link), or just answer with a new comment. In this way, the algorithm misses the connections.

Concur with William M. Connolley. There are some neutral point of view problems , I identified a couple in a previous section, but there is no justification here for anything else. Please note also that there is no support on the fringe noticeboard for placing both 86.\*\* IP's new fringe tag and POV tag on the same article. Please note also the steps in [WP:MERGE](#) about proposing merges and the steps required when doing them. Just saying rewrite without discussion and insisting on keeping the tag is unconstructive. [Dmcq \(talk\)](#) 21:59, 20 December 2011 (UTC)

I did follow the instructions for the proposed merger, see [Talk:Climate change denial](#). The talk goes on the proposed [DESTINATION](#) article's talk page, not here. Since there is 1RR, please restore the mistakenly removed merge tag, as otherwise, you simply keep interested parties in participating. [86.\\*\\* IP \(talk\)](#) 22:02, 20 December 2011 (UTC)

The interactions are mainly discussions between users. In a few cases there is a simple agreement about the edits done, in other cases there is a request of more explanations.

Central users:

Nieglj appears in different discussions (15 in total), in which different users had taken part (12/15 of the main users). However, he did not comment a lot in each thread (mainly 1 comment, 23 comments overall).

NewsAndEventGuy appears in many discussions (20), in which different users had taken part (9/15). He commented a lot and in four discussions he did more than five comments, fourteen in one (58 comments overall).

Dmcq appears in different discussions (13), in which different users had taken part (8/15), that are almost the same in which NewsAndEventsGuy had taken part. He commented a lot. In five discussions he did more than five comments (42 comments overall).

While Nieglj seems to be more central from the point of view of the potential users with which he comes in contact, NewsAndEventsGuy and Dmcq are central the "level of discussion": more comments on a single thread could easily be synonymous with more discussion. It might be interesting to evaluate the level of "debate willingness" of each user, looking at the ratio between the number of comments each user does and the number of conversations in which she/he participates. However, sometimes the same user writes many comments in the same thread but with the specific purpose of explaining what she/he has edited/meant to say. Probably it could be good to consider the number of participants per thread too.

Users could be divided into factions according to two different parameters:

1. Depending on their position on the article's topic (In this case, if they think global warming is or is not a conspiracy).
2. Depending on the opinion they are supporting in a particular thread.

In the first case, all users try not to overexpose their opinion about the topic, saying they are acting in order to "have an article with a neutral POV and respectful of Wikipedia policy". Someone's position is easier to understand from what they are supporting and the way they are acting. The

position of other users is less clear. These users sometimes enter the discussions trying to bring order, they agree partially with both parties, or just with one but with a more quiet attitude. Generally, they have a third position on the thread but their opinion around the topic lies more hidden.

In the second case, the position of each user depends on the threads. It is not possible to put users into a specific faction because of the threads' diversity (even if the threads mainly revolve around POV and article neutrality). Quite often, links to Wikipedia policies and rules are used as arguments.

*harsh?* It could be harsh and flat out wrong, or harsh and right on the money, or harsh and inbetween. But harsh. So see WP:SKYISBLUE. However I do admit that characterizing the criticism as "harsh" is subjective. PT, caution reading added meaning to black and white text on screen. NewsAndEventsGuy (talk) 21:12, 2 January 2012 (UTC)

Conspiracy is not *only* a legal term, it also has a non-jargon meaning ([2] gives *The act of two or more persons, called conspirators, working secretly to obtain some goal, usually understood with negative connotations* as its first definition). Besides, what matters is not *whether* the alleged behaviour is conspiracy, but whether *reliable sources have called it* conspiracy, which (as demonstrated above) they have. That covers the word 'conspiracy'.

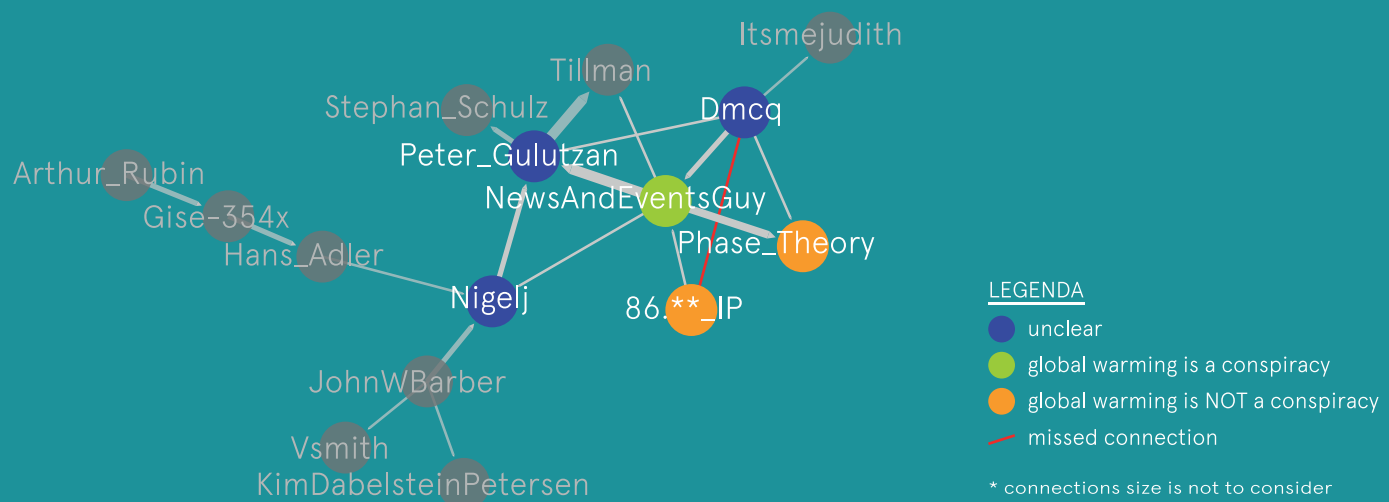
As for this 'harsh' business, have *reliable sources* described the criticism as harsh? If so, please provide these sources, because I haven't seen them cited.

WP:NOTBLUE, WP:SYN, etc.; the whole point of WP's V and RS policies is that we *shouldn't* make subjective statements, only objectively quote subjective statements in the literature. I'm not reading anything into the text that an average reader wouldn't; I'm just applying policy. PT 21:35, 2 January 2012 (UTC)

Policy is great. Let's try to be friendlier by applying *assume good faith*. I write "harsh" and you run to recruit D to do battle about it instead of just talking direct to me yourself? Sheesh. You were correct in your comment on D's page about you having a short trigger, apparently. Calm down, please, and be patient enough (a few days anyway) for the conversation to go back and forth. If you don't like something I wrote let's just talk about it... with patience. A good trick if you're feeling hot is to write back the next day. See also WP:ENEMY NewsAndEventsGuy (talk) 21:47, 2 January 2012 (UTC)

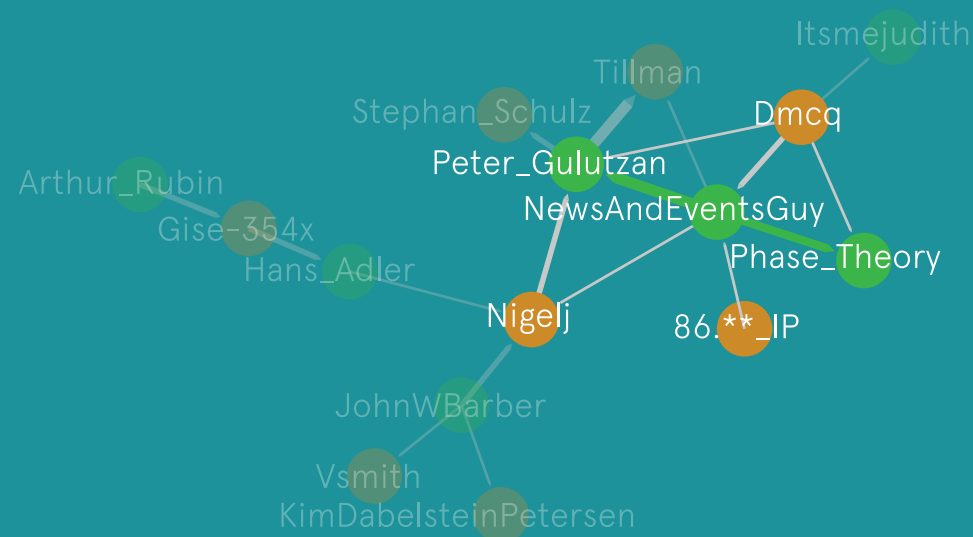
Regarding color assignment, neither of the two cases can justify the colors assigned by the algorithm.

In my opinion, an overall position could make sense only if related to the general topic of the Wikipedia article, that would be interesting to detect. The problem is that some users do not show their position that much and its evaluation can always be contested. Even assigning a position to the most explicit users is risky, since they do not disclose it with absolute clarity. Everyone (and especially users themselves) could question this assumption. From the readings of some threads, I could assign to an approximately true position NewsAndEventsGuy, Phase\_Theory, 86.\*\*\_IP.



I think assigning faction colors according to the threads is rather difficult. Each thread has a different topic and the same users do not always stay in the same faction.

ALGORITHM - BASED NETWORK (colors)



MANUAL ANALYSIS - BASED NETWORK (colors)

