

**WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021, 09:30 - 10:30**

## **Science, Technology and Digital Studies Stream Plenary**

### **THE ECOLOGY OF DIGITAL RACISM: NETWORKS, ALGORITHMS & ATTENTION**

Why is it so difficult to challenge online racism?

The escalation of racism on the web is overwhelming the capability of social media companies, government and civil society to tackle its toxic effects. And the increasing normalisation of online racism is attempting to silence 'minority' voices. While measures such as content moderation and legislation are being deployed to counter online 'hate', there remains a lack of progress addressing the underlying causes and dynamics of technologically mediated racisms. There is a failure to grasp the complexity of digital racism as a *sociotechnical* phenomena. My talk explores the ecology of digital racism: the connections and entanglements of racism between users, interfaces, algorithms and the affordances of social media platforms. It offers a conceptual framework that conjoins the notion of digital *assemblages* with an analysis of the contemporary conditions of *post-raciality*.

**Dr Sanjay Sharma** is a Reader in the Department of Social & Political Sciences, Brunel University London. He has widely published in the areas of race and digital culture, alterity and difference; and is currently completing a monograph exploring the ecology of digital racism (Rowman & Littlefield), supported by Leverhulme Fellowship funding. He is a founding editor of the online open access [darkmatter Journal](#).

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