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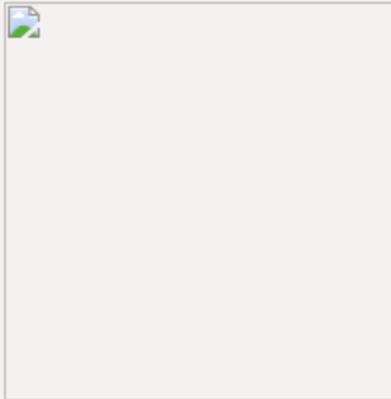
**To:** <jeevacation@gmail.com>

**Subject:** How do we find love in the digital age? The Great Dating Apps Debate

**Date:** Tue, 02 Apr 2019 06:34:04 +0000

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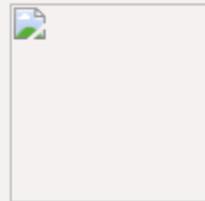
## **When Harry Swiped Sally: Dating Apps Are Killing Romance**



## When Harry Swiped Sally: Dating Apps are Killing Romance

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**TUESDAY 11TH JUNE, 7PM**

**ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

Featuring Georgia 'Toff' Toffolo, Dr Bernie Hogan, Hermione Way, Toni Tone and Dr Xand Van Tulleken

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How do we find love in the digital age? Over the centuries people have placed their hopes in the hands of the gods, matchmakers or chance. Now tech companies have made it their mission to pair people up. They claim that romance is a numbers game – the more we play, the better the odds. But is this really the case?

Dating-app enthusiasts argue that smartphones have allowed us to connect with people outside our social circles and geographical locations. Finding love IRL (In Real Life), they say, is inefficient and overrated. Harry or Harriet can now swipe Sally from the convenience of his or her bedroom. Millions use dating apps every day to find a compatible partner, from scoring a date on Tinder and Bumble to finding the perfect match through eHarmony and OKCupid. Want to meet a farmer or a life-partner who lives gluten-free? Apps can find you a match within seconds. Try doing that in a dark, crowded bar.

That's a dangerous illusion, argue the dating-app sceptics. These apps are like junk-food – addictive and bad for your health. They lead to unfulfilled experiences and have turned being ghosted and feeling disposable into an everyday experience. Why settle on a match when someone better might be just a swipe away? We have fallen under the spell of tech companies that have their bottom lines, not our happiness, at heart. Worldwide spend on dating apps has skyrocketed from £234m in 2016 to £448m in 2017, allowing executives to profit from our swiping addiction. Instead of allowing romance to blossom organically we are entrusting our hearts to money-making algorithms.

Are dating apps killing romance or are they the matchmakers we've waited centuries for? [Join us on June 11th](#), hear the arguments and decide for yourselves.

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## Speakers for the motion



### Dr Bernie Hogan

A Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford's Internet Institute and Research Associate in the Department of Sociology. His work focuses on social networks, social media and theories of relationships.



### Georgia 'Toff' Toffolo

Media personality and reality TV star, best known for appearing on E4's Made in Chelsea and winning the seventeenth series of ITV's **Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!** A social media influencer with nearly two million Instagram followers and her own Youtube channel. she is passionate about politics and made headlines when she called Jacob-Rees Mogg a 'sex-

god'.

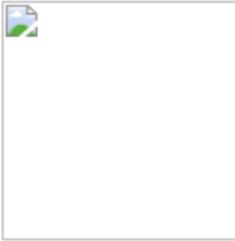


### Speakers against the motion



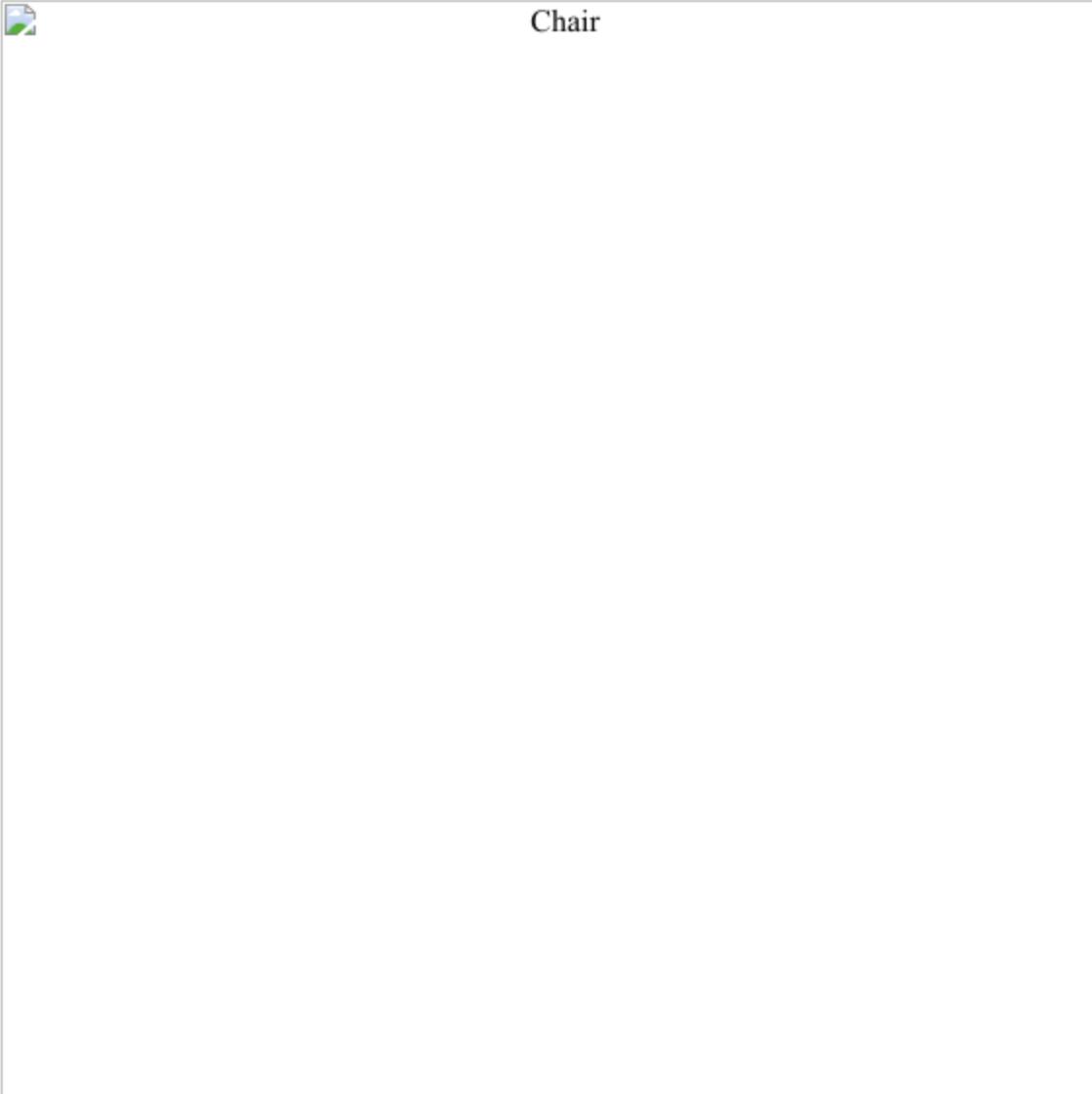
#### **Toni Tone**

Online talk show host and lifestyle and relationship commentator on social media. She is best known for her popular Twitter threads, averaging over 15 million Twitter impressions a month. She is also Manager for Student Communications at the University of Oxford where she runs social media branding workshops and oversees campaigns against sexual harassment on campus.

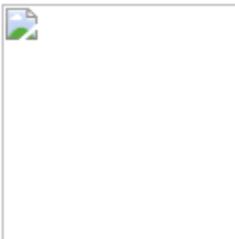


## Hermione Way

Former Head of European Communications at Tinder, where she helped grow the brand across multiple countries. Previously she co-founded Vibease, the world's first smart vibrator. She now works as a consultant specialising in accelerating brand growth and viral campaigns.



Chair



## Dr Xand Van Tulleken

Medical doctor and broadcaster who has presented numerous shows for the BBC and Channel 4, often alongside his twin brother Chris. He's presented documentaries including Sugar V Fat, How to Lose Weight Well and How to Find Love Online, where he attempted to find the perfect match through exploring

the science of online dating.

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## How I Found My Voice



## How I Found My Voice, with Sir Philip Pullman

### Our New Podcast: Episode 3 with Sir Philip Pullman

**How I Found My Voice** is a new Intelligence Squared podcast that explores how some of the world's greatest artists and thinkers became such compelling – and unique – communicators.

**Samira Ahmed** speaks to the best-selling author **Sir Philip Pullman**, most famous for the acclaimed His Dark Materials fantasy trilogy. From reading Rudyard Kipling as a child to discovering the power of poetry and how to be a storyteller as a teacher, they discuss the moments that shaped and inspired his voice.

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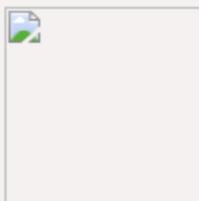
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