

# **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

## **Defense of a Doctoral Dissertation**

Phenomena of Social Dynamics in Online Games

by

**Essa Alhazmi**

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Online communities exhibit dynamic social phenomena that, if understood, can both influence the design of technical platforms and inform theories about general social dynamics. With increasing popularity, online games provide a rich recording of social dynamics that can contribute to understanding human behavior. This dissertation studies two phenomena of social dynamics at large-scale using data traces from online games. The first phenomenon is team