

# Signal and Noise

Extreme Data, Hypercomplexity, and Cognitive Dissonance  
in an Age of Information Glut

A presentation by –

**REID CORNWELL**

Thursday, September 18, 2008

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Reception 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

While still young, raw, and awesomely dynamic, the Internet as entered a phase of maturity, represented, in one part, by the way in which all that is Internet as become woven in to the fabric of our lives and, in another part, by the relative lull in ground-breaking techno-social change. Successive promises of revolutionary change have been fulfilled to varying degrees of success but there remain seemingly intractable problems highlighted, and exacerbated, by the tidal wave of everything which inter-networked technologies offer coupled with the failure of technology to facilitate human activities within human limitations. Bringing together disparate threads of observations woven into a complex narrative, a case is made for what is overwhelming us, how we are being overwhelmed, what we may do about it, and why the problem of information overload may be the defining problem of our age.

**Reid Cornwell** is Director of Research, The Center For Internet Research, and Director, Focus on Education Foundation. He is an outspoken advocate for the potential of technology as a tool for reforming education and the application of empirical research to inform educational practice.

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