



MMI
Maud Menten Institute
Mathematics for the Life Sciences



**University
of Manitoba**



***Maud Menten Institute /
Mathematical and Statistical Biology Seminar***

Monday, December 2nd - 2:00pm (CT)

225 St. Paul's College - UofM Fort Garry Campus

Or Join Zoom Meeting

[https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/66960493994?
pwd=xahlt1zaWR3DTgLOeDsdoMbMu0JC7Q.1](https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/66960493994?pwd=xahlt1zaWR3DTgLOeDsdoMbMu0JC7Q.1)

Meeting ID: 669 6049 3994

Passcode: 900153

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Pandemic preparedness needs modelling preparedness: what the COVID-19 pandemic taught us about the modelling, the philosophy, and the profession

Pandemic preparedness needs modelling preparedness because during the COVID-19 pandemic there was high demand for modelling to provide short-term forecasts, counterfactual scenarios, quantities that summarize risk, and to inform decisions. To model COVID-19 in Newfoundland and Labrador, the cautionary tales of the 'atto-fox' and the 'island of Transmithica' informed our approach. These tales, as well as overgeneralization, have a role in explaining why travel measure recommendations were updated during the pandemic. To highlight the consequences of overgeneralization, we revisit the epidemiology of Atlantic Canada and the territories during the COVID-19 pandemic, and argue that the types of models needed to support decision-making in small jurisdictions are different, harder, and under-resourced. When modelling aims to support public health decision-making, the impact of modellers occurs within the context of colleagues and other experts. The aim of this talk is to have us consider: given what we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, how can modellers prepare to best support the public health response to future pandemics?