

**Statistical analyses of epidemics**

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In the talk we will discuss some practical aspects of analysing real data using epidemic models. For instance: how do continuous time models work when data is collected weekly, how should one estimate the initial proportion of immune, should the individual-to-individual transmission parameter increase as individuals die in mortal diseases? The questions, and some partial answers, will be illustrated with data from on phocine distemper plague in harbour seals.