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**Title:**

### **Identifying Network Effects in Infectious Disease Dynamics**

**Abstract:**

Infectious diseases differ from chronic diseases in that they are transmitted from person to person. As a result, the concept of “exposure” is also different in the infectious disease context. In particular, your exposure is not simply a function of your behavior: it is also a function of the behavior of those you come into contact with. These “network effects” are most pronounced for infections spread by behaviors that are relatively rare and highly structured, with HIV a classic example. In this talk, I review some of the confusion this has caused in the scientific literature and examples of study designs that can be used to specify and empirically test for network effects.