



05
FEB 2026
Thursday

LECTURE**MEET & EAT ***

Light lunch provided

Conference room – *Maison des Sciences Humaines*

11.00am - 12.00pm

12.00pm - 1.30pm



Policy Relevant Effects in Infectious Disease Studies

ABSTRACT

When facing infectious diseases, healthcare professionals must make decisions under uncertainty. Certain considerations are frequently recurring in this process. Knowing whether a vaccine's effect wanes is important for determining the timing of seasonal flu shots or assigning COVID-19 boosters. Understanding whether a vaccine has heterogeneous effects on different subtypes, such as Malaria variants, has implications for the development of new treatments. Whether vaccinating a subgroup of individuals is sufficient to reach herd immunity, due to spill-over effects, shapes public health policies. Although the previous plain English sentences might seem clear, I will argue that terms like "waning", "heterogeneous effects", and "spill-over" are ambiguously interpreted. I will then propose ways to clarify these terms based on theory and methods for causal inference. Using Malaria, HIV, influenza, and COVID-19 as illustrative examples, I will show that these clarifications matter in practice. In particular, I will leverage the clarifications to define new treatment effects in vaccine settings, which sometimes justify existing analytic approaches and also motivate new methods that are feasible to implement.

**SPEAKER****Mats Julius Stensrud**
 Associate Professor, Chair of Biostatistics
 École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
RESPONSIBLE SCIENTIST**Anja Leist**
 Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences
 Department of Social Sciences
 University of Luxembourg


*Please note that registration for Meet and Eat is mandatory via the following link:
<https://lsurvey.lih.lu/index.php/124617?lang=en>

Location:**Lecture:**
 Maison des Sciences Humaines
 Room: Conference room

 11 porte des Sciences
 L-4366 Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
JOIN

Event number: 2795 672 8004

Event password: tZ236kyqWke

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