

MEDIA, FILM & COMMUNICATION SEMINAR

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER | 10am | BURN4 Arts Bldg

Zoom link: <https://otago.zoom.us/j/91380829615?pwd=RGNoUc3WWxQTUc3bHlmWDBFVWQ0UT09>

Meeting ID: 913 8082 9615 Password: 262470

Contagious Communications: A Historical Perspective

Almost all of us have stared obsessively at a Covid statistics dashboard in the last 18 months. We might have thought less about why case numbers matter in the first place and why we think that we can compare them across countries. These statistics



have become a crucial part of how we communicate disease. But the statistics themselves have a history. This talk will explore how and why statistics became such a crucial way of communicating disease in the twentieth century. I will also talk about how this history can inform new ways of communicating Covid today.



Dr Heidi Tworek is associate professor of history and public policy at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Her latest book is the multi-award-winning *News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945* (Harvard University Press, 2019). She is a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation as well as a non-resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and Canadian Global Affairs Institute.