

Infectious diseases have impacted civilisations throughout history, shaping interactions between individuals, and influencing the growth of populations. Despite advances in the control of disease, often stemming from the development and deployment of vaccines, they still pose a substantial threat to human life. To minimize disease burden it is essential to gain a greater understanding of the underlying dynamics of disease within populations. Here I consider how the classification of infectious disease data provides both opportunities and uncertainty in our quest to characterize and control infectious disease outbreaks.

The COVID-19 pandemic threw the world into a state of uncertainty, s