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*Mathematics and policy in the COVID-19 pandemic*

Mathematics and modelling have had unprecedented levels of attention from policy makers, public health, the media and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we always anticipated that another pandemic would come one day, we did not anticipate that  $R_0$ , herd immunity, flattening the curve and other mathematical concepts would be so much in the public eye. In this talk I will describe some of the work our group has done on the COVID-19 pandemic, from deterministic to stochastic modelling, and I will make reference in particular to discrete mathematics and its growing role in evolving pandemics.