

Friday, October 21

NEATBY-TIMLIN LECTURE THEATRE, ARTS BUILDING

3:30 pm

Remember/Rebuild Saskatchewan Poster Display

Come view posters depicting the work of a joint initiative between scholars in Departments of History and Community Health and Epidemiology, on how we can learn from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Visit the website for more details on our project: rememberrebuild.ca



4:30 pm

Keynote: Jacob Steere-Williams

Associate Professor, History, College of Charleston, South Carolina

Chair: Esyllt Jones, History, University of Manitoba

Pandemic Pasts, Endemic Futures: The Politics of Disease Categories

Late in 2021 popular media around the world began to recategorize Covid-19 as an 'endemic' disease. The refashioning of the deadliest and most devastating pandemic in recent history continues well into 2022. But what does 'endemic' mean, and why is it being used at this moment? Epidemiologists have struggled to form a consensus on the term, while in popular discourse endemic has come to mean benign and 'normal'. And yet, endemcity has long been an epidemiological concept used to categorize and explain the distribution of disease in populations. This paper interrogates the shifting historical dimensions of endemcity, showing how the term was yoked in the nineteenth century to colonial and later tropical medicine. Endemcity, I argue, has long been geopolitically wielded by western public health officials, which provides key historical context for how it is being used globally today.



THE MOMS CONFERENCE FULL PROGRAM:

