



The role of (mis)recognition in HCPs and parents' interactions: exploring vaccine hesitancy using the concept of trajectories

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Vaccine hesitancy

- **behaviour phenomenon** (postponement, refusal, acceptance) about a particular vaccine.: *“Delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite the availability of vaccination services. Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context-specific, varying across time, place, and vaccines. It is influenced by factors such as complacency, convenience, and confidence”* (MacDonald 2015: 4163)
- **a psychological feature of indecision**: *“A psychological state of indecisiveness that people may experience when deciding on vaccination”* (Bussik-Voorend et al. 2022: 6)
- **an expression of distrust in science**: *“a complex set of social, historical, and personal anxieties resulting in the expression of poor public trust in science and health professions”* (Goldenberg 2021: 18).



The concept of trajectory

-vaccine hesitancy as ‘a kind of decision-making process’ (Peretti-Watel et al. 2015)

→ situates decision-making regarding vaccination into a broader frame of emotions, personal anxieties, and parental strategies.

-one of the pillars of our research developed around the consensus that “*trust matters*” (see, e.g. Vuolanto et al. 2024)

→ The concept of trajectories enables us to capture trust not as something that is fixed but as a fluid and contextual variable



Temporalities and interconnectivities

-any decision about vaccination should be located in a complex of more or less connected temporalities. Those trajectories may reflect intergeneration links:

-role of previous parental experience

And with the second child, I already automatically asked for it (vaccination postponement). I said: "I want to do it this way, I think it's good and I feel good about it". And the doctor automatically agreed with me and we had some philosophical debate there, but about whether my child would fall on a nail and get jaundice within a year. (Interview Czechia, Parent 30)

"A lot of it can be generational as well, like if it comes from their parents, I think a lot of people are a product of their parent so if their parents were anti-vaxxers then they're going to be anti-vaxxers because it's hard to break that cycle and that way of thinking, isn't it, if you've always been brought up like that and been fed that information from a young age then it's very hard to change your views and then how you might be treated in your family if you go against the grain."
(Interview UK, HCP 13).

Role of interaction with HCPs

-HCPs as access points (Giddens 1990) where individuals interact with the abstract system of biomedicine/healthcare and where the critical dimension of vaccine hesitancy - trust - can be eroded or strengthened

It may seem stupid, but it (younger son's health condition) calmed me down a lot because they did a lot of different procedures with us , and he's been on that magnetic resonance since he was a child and received a transfusion and was on medication and everything possible, I gained so much more confidence generally in that medical system. That if really something happens. It was actually a very positive experience for us, that when we needed it, the procedures they suggested saved him. So, I stopped being afraid and my distrust in the whole medical system somehow broke.

(Interview Czechia, Parent)

- 1) Gaining trust in biomedical procedures
- 2) gaining trust in the person of pediatrician
- 3) gaining trust that her concerns will be taken seriously

Feeling matters – recognition and disrespect in parents' narratives

- the importance of parent's feeling that their concerns are recognised -> strengthening the trust
- the erosion of trust by feeling disrespect of by feelings that their experiences and feelings are by HCPs not recognised as valid

She told me that she doesn't see any reason why the vaccination should be postponed (the mother reported that her son experienced vomiting, high fever and food allergy after fist dose of hexavaccine). He said that it's okay like this, that this is how he does it with all the kids, and there was never a problem. At the same time, we kind of saw that it was a problem, and somehow, we didn't want to be pushed into it. I am a healthcare professional, so I have some faith in the vaccination, and I had faith in the doctor. But the first experience undermined my trust a lot. And following this I have a big distrust of him, of his procedures. (Interview Czechia, Parent 17)

Right after the birth. At the health centre and so on, I was never given a proper answer. In other words, I've always been told that it doesn't do any harm (vaccination), there are no contraindications. I was never told... I even asked for the vaccine leaflets and they (healthcare professionals) didn't give them to me either. (Interview Portugal, parent)

Concluding remarks

- The need to consider vaccine hesitancy as dynamic and contextual
 - ➔ reflecting both macro-social trajectories of communities and family and individual trajectories

- The experience of expressions of mistrust and disrespect by HCPs was identified as a triggering moment of vaccine hesitancy
 - ➔ the need to conceptualise trust as bilateral and consider the role of healthcare professionals not only as trustees but also as trustors



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Thank you for your attention

