



Hesitant Bodies

Phenomenological Analysis of the Embodied Experience of Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy

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PROJEKTI

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delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite
availability of vaccination services

VACCINE HESITANCY (WHO)

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic

BACKGROUND

successful communication

BACKGROUND

embodiment of vaccine hesitancy

BACKGROUND

phenomenological interview

METHODS

16 in-depth semi-structured interviews

vaccine hesitant adults from Latvia

METHODS



FINDINGS

embodiment

FINDINGS



THEME 1

direct personal and interpersonal experiences play a significant role in our actions and decisions

THEME 1

FINDINGS

“

I would not vaccinate. I have already gone through [COVID-19] and I trust my natural immunity. And [also] because of the experience of my colleague that with every next time it gets easier going this illness. (201)

FINDINGS

“

In Twitter I have gathered a circle of people, purely for the scientific interest, very different people. They are frank, they tell everything how they are doing. And for me it is like life-stories, like a reading material, and I see, that different people suffer from the illness more severely than me who is not vaccinated. (101)

FINDINGS

mismatch or conflict between direct embodied
experience and scientific knowledge

THEME 1

FINDINGS

“

And my colleagues went through this illness [COVID-19], and seeing [how it] spreads ... it also made me confident that things are exaggerated, because, of course, initially [nobody] knew how to diagnose what it is. It supposedly began in November, but actually, if one looks at all those [cases of] atypical pneumonias, it turns out that in my other workplace 4 colleagues were sick with it already at the end of August, in September. And if we are fifty to sixty in my workplace and only four of them fall ill, it made me feel that it is not as terrible as we are told. (201)

FINDINGS

hierarchies of evidence

THEME 1

FINDINGS



THEME 2

lived bodies and sense of threat

THEME 2

FINDINGS

“

Yes, it was one of the fundamental emotions that came from authorities, it was aggression. And especially during the last year of the pandemic it was very pronounced. And it expressed itself in different ways, because aggression can be different, I would say that during the last year it was hysteric aggression. (101)

FINDINGS

objectification

THEME 2

FINDINGS

“

It all was intensified by this hysteric aggression. Why, why me? I am a human being with my own experience, with all that is mine. Leave me alone! I would say it to them. Why you coerce me? (101)

FINDINGS

“

It was because of this attitude that I was not valued as a human being, as a professional, but rather, I do not know, as a mere code [of certificate of vaccination]. I have the code, I am valid. This was one of the severest what I call stumbles. (101)

FINDINGS

“

No ... it achieved the opposite effect. It was about me being put into a box. Why it [the campaign] did not win me over? Because I was put into a box. Because I am not the only one who was open and wanted to ask some questions. We all were put into the box of those with the low level of education and those Kremlinists. (101)

FINDINGS

passivity and isolation

THEME 2

FINDINGS

“

And for me it is like for a part of animal world, it has been already from the beginning, that when faced with aggression I freeze, I do not understand, I cannot answer to aggression right away. It is my upbringing, it is, let us say, my genetic constitution. And it relates very well with why I am hesitant [about the vaccine]. Like an animal I freeze and wait, what the aggressor will do next. That is why my reaction against aggression was this hesitancy. I was saved by my sense of humour and logical thinking, that I have to turn on my brains, and I have to put all the pieces together and I have to draw analogies, I have to understand where and what happens, how can I react to this aggression. I can either wait it out, or I can smile. Or, I can continue doing what is my daily rhythm, cutting out, so to say, on that moment what is around, if it does not influence what is mine. (101)

FINDINGS

resistance and autonomy

THEME 2

FINDINGS

“

And now it is not because of the vaccine that I would not want [to vaccinate], now it is becoming like a competition to see, how long can I withstand all the external pressures and how far it will lead, when they will say: “That is it, we will come to you and jab you whether you like it or not.” (001)

FINDINGS



CONCLUSION

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