

Review of: "[Viewpoint] Vaccination campaigns against Covid-19 may promote vaccine hesitancy toward mostly well-established, safe, and effective vaccines"

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This is an opinion article and must be treated as such by the reader.

I appreciate the idea behind the text, regarding the importance of raw data availability. As a communication scholar, I cannot comment on the problem itself (i.e. availability of data, safety of the COVID-19 vaccine, soundness of the clinical trials). However, I can comment on the arguments and sources used to support the arguments of the authors. The paper makes some good points regarding the importance of trust for vaccine hesitancy. However, the authors fail to provide compelling and comprehensive evidence for some of their core arguments:

- that lack of transparency about the safety assessments increases vaccine hesitancy towards the COVID-19 vaccine and/ or other vaccines on the market.
- that studies about the side effects of vaccination are “hard to publish”
- that there is “censorship in research and in the media” on the topic of COVID-19 vaccine safety.
- that we experience “a narrative of fear and coercion”.

Furthermore, vaccine acceptance has many types of predictors (as documented in the literature). Focusing exclusively on only to types of predictors (concerns about vaccine safety and trust in institutions) is misleading. The interplay of factors is much more complex.

Overall, this opinion article can inspire scholars to find new avenues of research but, for the moment, it remains speculative and insufficiently documented.