



**THE VACCINE
CONFIDENCE
PROJECT**

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Confidence in vaccines: Social, cultural and religious issues influencing vaccination acceptance

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Abstract

Why do we need to pay attention to vaccine confidence?

Despite the historic success of immunisation in reducing the burden of childhood illness and death, episodes of public concerns and rumors around vaccines have occurred around the world, spreading quickly and sometimes seriously eroding public confidence in immunisation and ultimately leading to vaccine refusals and disease outbreaks.

The Vaccine Confidence Project, at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, monitor public confidence in immunisation programs by listening for early signals of public distrust and questioning and providing risk analysis and guidance to engage the public early and pre-empting potential program disruptions.

Dr Pauline Paterson, co-lead of The Vaccine Confidence Project, will explore the need to pay attention to vaccine confidence by presenting example case studies including tetanus vaccine concerns in the Philippines and Kenya, and HPV concerns in Japan. Dr Paterson will then present findings from analysis of an information surveillance system on vaccine confidence globally, and a systematic review on vaccine hesitancy. Dr Paterson will finish by considering how immunisation acceptance might be improved.

Biography

Dr. Pauline Paterson is a Research Fellow and co-lead of The Vaccine Confidence Project with Dr. Heidi Larson at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK. The Vaccine Confidence Project conducts global research on vaccine confidence, examining local and global dynamics which influence vaccine decision-making. The Vaccine Confidence research group has also been conducting qualitative research on specific vaccine confidence issues and risk perceptions globally since 2010.

Dr. Paterson is a member of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Immunisation and has an honorary academic contract with Public Health England. Dr. Paterson previously worked in strategy at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and carried out her MBA project in Thailand in collaboration with WHO. Dr. Paterson has a PhD in Epidemiology, MBA and MSc from Imperial College London.