

# Vaccine Hesitancy

Kaisu Maria Koski  
University of Tampere

## Abstract

**The film *Conversations with vaccine-critical parents* is a documentary about vaccine-hesitancy, and it is based on interviews with vaccine-critical parents and their home videos in the Netherlands and Finland. It explores the health beliefs and concepts backgrounding the parents' vaccine criticism, such as their understanding of the immune system and importance of illness in a child's development, as well as their definitions of "natural". The parents' perceptions of health have been interpreted in arts-based diagrams and discussed with a vaccine researcher.**

**The diagram series *Theory of Illness #1-4* visualizes vaccine-critical parents' core health beliefs. They introduce aspects of four main health beliefs that form the foundations of vaccine hesitancy: (1) perceived benefits of illness, (2) belief in the body's intelligence and self-healing capacity, (3) beliefs about the "inside–outside" flow of substances in the body, and (4) view of death as a natural part of life. The diagrams employ aesthetic strategies of scientific visualization such as visual parallelism. In doing so, they are layering information from various aspects of the participants' stories as well as from scientific views on immunization, illustrating temporal courses of events.**