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Vaccine Hesitancy: Clarifying a Theoretical Framework for an Ambiguous Notion

FEBRUARY 25, 2014 | DISCUSSION

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AUTHORS Patrick Peretti-Watel, Heidi J Larson, Jeremy K Ward, William S Schulz, Pierre Verger

ABSTRACT Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning... Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning... Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning...

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RELATED ARTICLES The article is part of the PLOS Currents Outbreaks 'Vaccine Hesitancy Collection'.

INTRODUCTION Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning... Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning...

THE AMBIGUITIES OF CURRENT DEFINITIONS OF VH. VH definitions in the public health literature. VH has been defined as a set of beliefs, attitudes, behaviours, or some combination of them...

TWO ISSUES RAISED BY THE VH DEFINITIONS: WHAT IS VH, AND WHERE TO POSITION IT? A belief, attitude, a behaviour, or a decision-making process? It is not fully satisfactory to define VH as a behaviour...

THE INDIFFERENCE/COMMITMENT AXIS As specified above, considering VH a decision-making process helps to distinguish two very different kinds of VH: first, that of people with poor knowledge and indifference to vaccination issues...

VH IN A TWO-DIMENSION MAP. Thus we propose to add to the risk culture/health axis a second axis, assessing lay people's attitudes toward health authorities and mainstream medicine (see Figure 1).

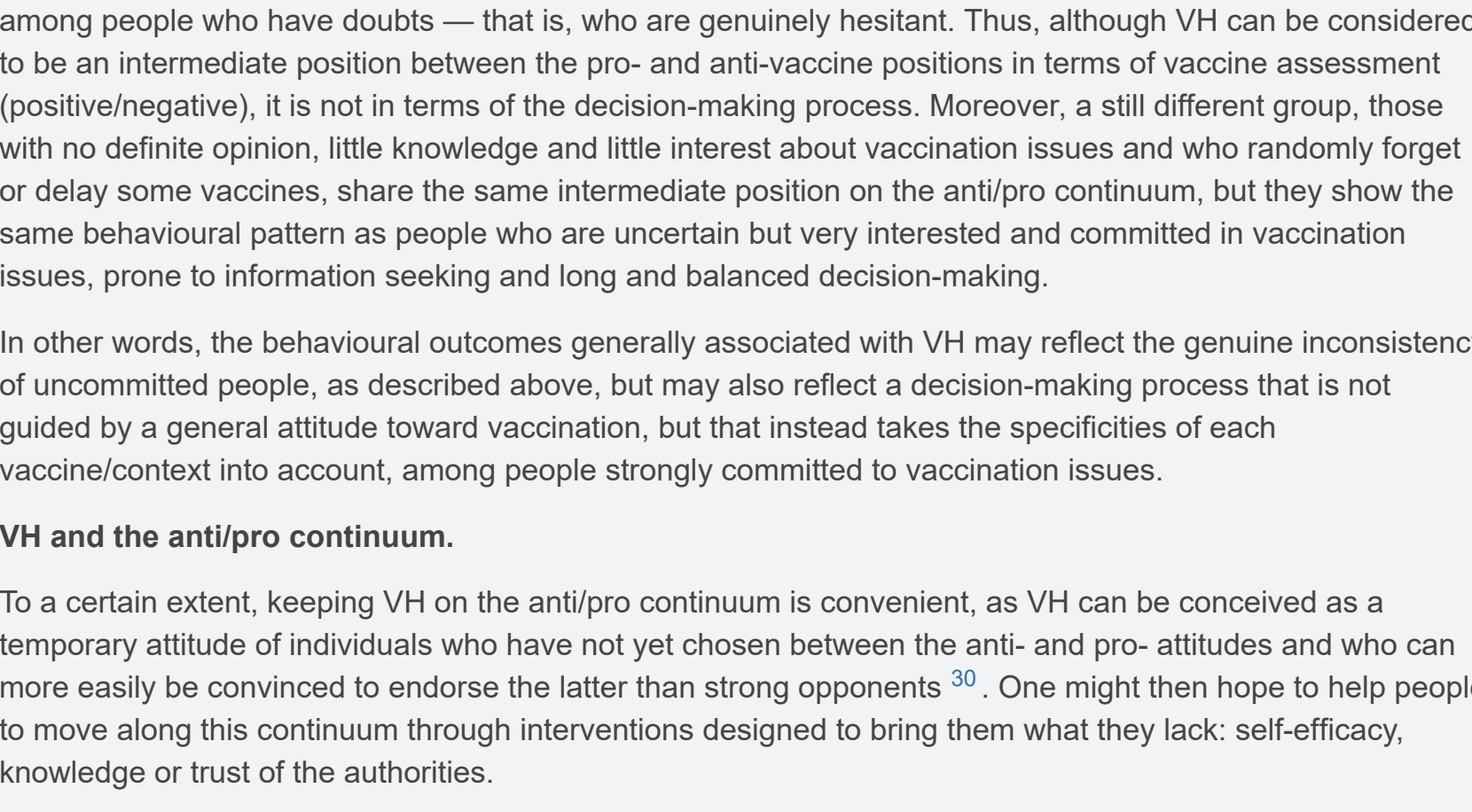
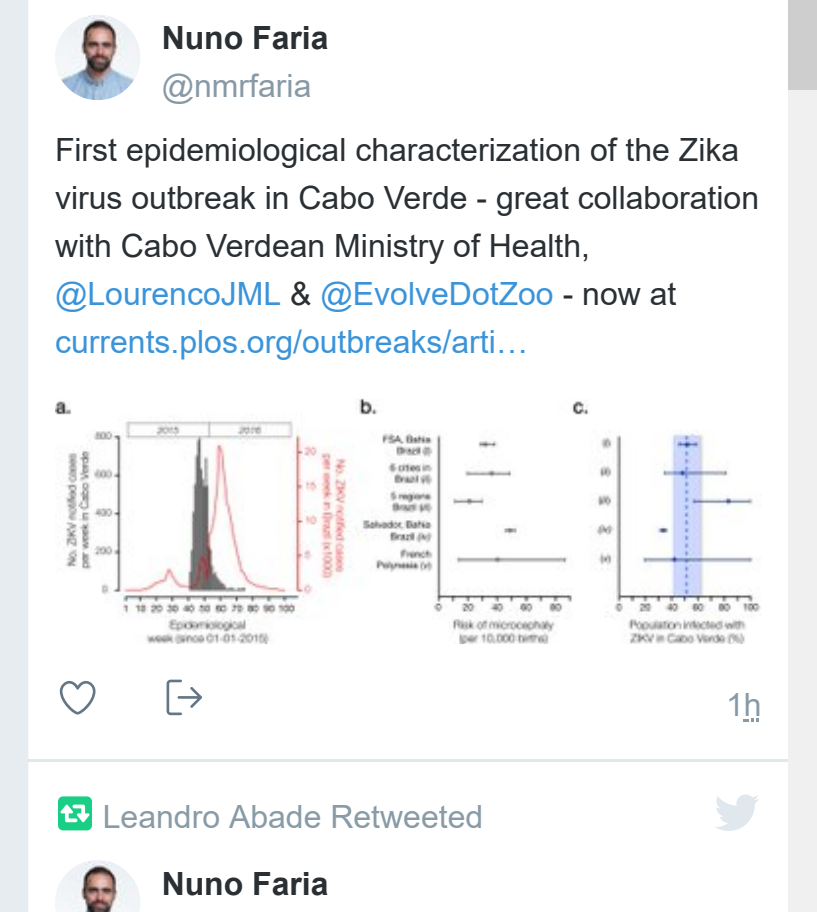
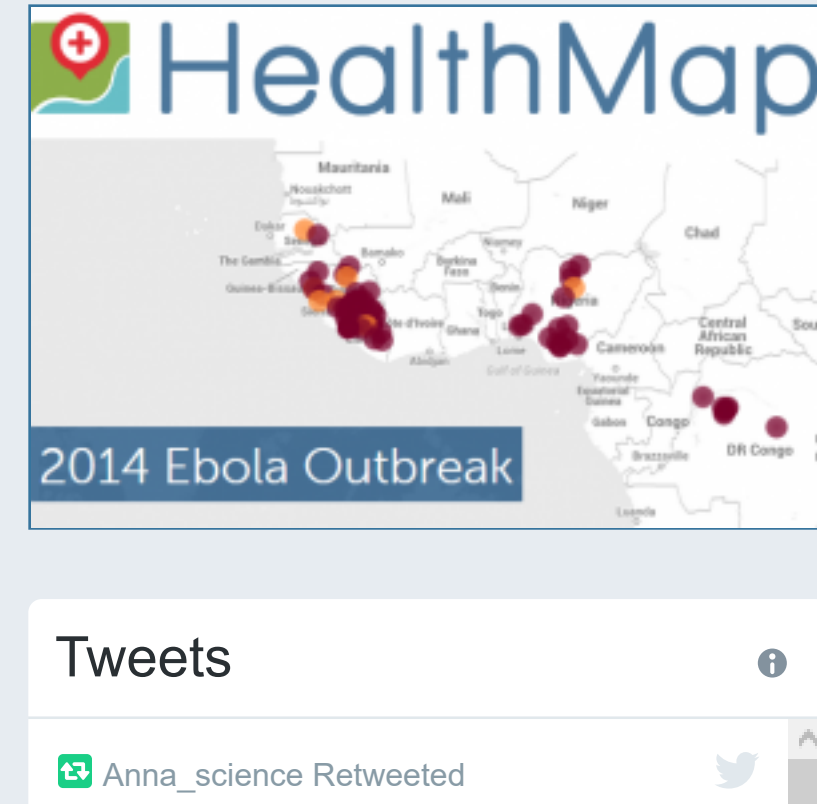
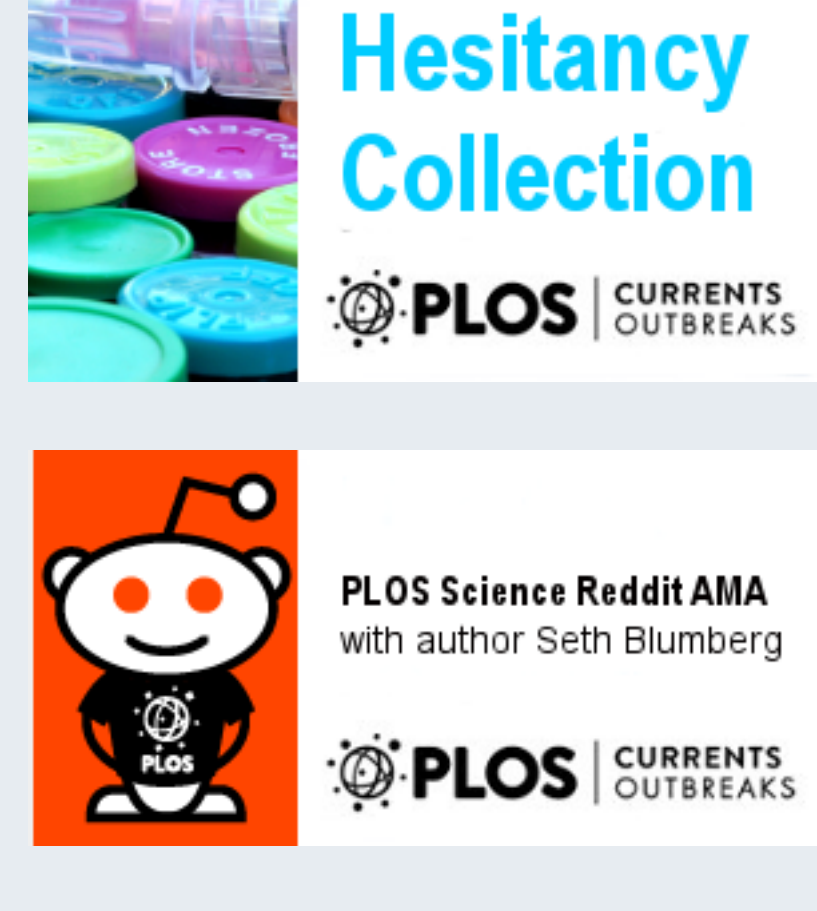


Fig. 1. VH along two axes. Commitment to risk culture/healthism (horizontal axis) and distrust toward health authorities (vertical axis).

CONCLUSION In this paper, we have discussed some of the ambiguities and contradictions of the notion of vaccine hesitancy. We have argued that it is currently more a catchall category than a real concept.

COMPETING INTERESTS The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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