



Supplemental Materials

for

Science and Politics in the Polio Vaccination Debate
on Facebook: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Public Engagement
in a Science-Based Dialogue
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Received: 9 October 2017, Accepted: 15 December 2017, Published:
30 March 2018.

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Appendix 1. Examples of classification of items according to topic and use of evidence

Primary topic of conversation ¹	Use of evidence	Examples ² (gender, occupation ³)
Scientific/Medical	No use of evidence	<i>The whole story started when they found Polio in the sewage, so if it is in the sewage it can infect everyone</i> (f, child development counsellor)
	Empirical justification: A researcher's advice	<i>Here is some advice regarding the vaccination of premature babies, by Dr. Diana Tesher, Dr. Liza Rubin, Dr. Shmuel Tzangan, and Prof. Nehama Linder</i> (m, M.D.)
Personal	No use of evidence	<i>I am only worried that my baby will be among the 3% who are not vaccinated, whereas in his day-care there are three other babies whose spit and feces make them potential carriers</i> (m, NA)
Political-Economic	No use of evidence	<i>Sounds nice and gentle and harmless... but the public has had to inject/drink unnecessary substances which in some cases caused harm to their bodies... lots of money was wasted (guess who made a profit from this)</i> (m, Developer at Intel)

Societal	Empirical justification: Study findings	<i>Maybe you can tell us what you would do? To live with a virulent virus that can spread throughout the country? In the end it will harm the percentages who have not been vaccinated, been vaccinated but without a satisfactory immune response, immunocompromised patients, and others. Read the study on what happened during the last outbreak in 1988, where the children were only vaccinated with the IPV. Most paralytics received the vaccine. You want to play Russian roulette? call it that, but don't tell yourself and us that you are making an informed decision⁴ (m, NA)</i>
	No use of evidence	<i>Why should I, as a mother of a daughter who has been vaccinated with the IPV have to give her the OPV too so that god forbid if my daughter is a carrier she won't affect other children who have not been vaccinated... why do I need to take responsibility for others? (f, NA)</i>

Notes

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- 1 Excluding items classified as "other".
 - 2 Translations of verbatim quotes, or excerpts.
 - 3 When identifiable. m=male; f=female; NA= not available.
 - 4 The secondary topic for this item was scientific/medical.