



# Black Trust in Covid-19 Vaccine Efficacy

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April 22, 2023

2023 Midwest Undergraduate  
Philosophy Conference

## Covid-19 Vaccination

**Issue:** Lower vaccination rates in predominantly Black communities.

**Explanation:** Systemic racism has degraded institutional trust.

# Thesis

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Predominantly Black communities in the U.S. have increased hesitancy to the Covid-19 vaccine due to the formation and promulgation of epistemic norms relating to institutional trust.

Overview

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Institutional Trust

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Trust as an Epistemic Norm

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Government Institutions

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Epistemic Normativity

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Black Trust & Public Health

# Trust v. Reliance

- **Trust**

*Belief in the reliability or strength of another.*

*Personal attitude.*

- **Reliance**

*A dependence upon another.*

Budnik 2018, 222

# Known Components of Institutional Trust



REPRESENTATION



EFFICACY



COLLECTIVELY  
BENEFICIAL PURPOSE

Miller and Hoffman 1998; Mangum 2012; Budnik 2018

## Additional Component of Institutional Trust



ORIGIN/HISTORY



## Government

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- State institutions take on many roles, including:
  - (1) *Maintenance of social and political order.*
  - (2) *Provision of public goods and utilities.*
  - (3) ***Arrangement of public health protocols.***



# Identifying & Classifying Norms

- Modes of accountability (sanctions) determine a norm's class.

*For social norm violation, one faces ostracism, ridicule, shunning, etc.*

*For legal norm violation, one faces fines, loss of privileges, or imprisonment.*

*For moral norm violation, one faces guilt, contempt, or blame.*

***For epistemic norm violation, one faces alteration of trust provided.***

Kauppinen 2018

# Epistemic Norms & Institutions



Institutional trust is an epistemic norm in so far as when conditions are not met, we decrease the overall amount of trust in the given institution.



Institutional trust is normative since our social interactions can determine the degree of our trust.

## Black Trust in Public Health



Black Americans were 41.6% more hesitant of Covid-19 vaccines than their white counterparts (Khubchandani and Macias 2021).



Black mothers were less likely to give their sons the HPV vaccination (Evans and Gusmano 2021).



Black parents were, on average, more skeptical of psychiatric medication for their children (Schnittker 2003).

# Black Public Health History

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Tuskegee  
Syphilis Study

Post-slavery  
experimentation

Exclusion from  
clinical trials

CDC 2022; Savitt 1982

# Conclusion

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- For Black Americans, institutional trust is unlikely to take place since essential components (representation, efficacy, “beneficiality,” and history) are not fulfilled.



Thank You!

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## Comments

- **What is the relationship between trust in the government-at-large versus individual government agencies?**

*Institutions: The humanly devised constraints used to organize informal and formal interactions between individual agents (North 1994).*

- **Can institutional trust ever be the same as interpersonal trust?/Should we allow degraded institutions to be reformed or eradicate them?**

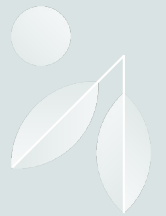
*Why trust institutions? (Börzel and Risse 2016)*

## Comments

- **What solutions exist for degraded institutional trust?**

*Norm abandonment (Bicchieri 2017).*





Any Questions?