

Body Language: A Spatial Dialogue Between Ontario Youth and Public Health Nurses on the HPV Vaccine



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Who We Are

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What We Study: The HPV Vaccine Project



HPV Vaccine Project



HPV Vaccine Project





We Come From Physical Cultural Studies

In a nutshell:

Physical Cultural Studies (PCS) encompasses the diversely focused field of scholarly work which is united by a commitment toward engaging varied dimensions or expressions of (in)active bodies or **physical culture** (Andrews & Silk, 2011)

BODIES + POWER
in PLACES + SPACES



Physical Cultural Studies (PCS) and the HPV Vaccine

The main themes of our questions:

- What do you know, think and feel about the HPV vaccine and vaccination process?
- What is the space related to the vaccine like?



Qualitative Methods and Methodologies

- Interviews with 12 public health nurses (or other health professionals)
 - Personal contacts
 - Snowball and convenience sampling
 - Via skype and in-person
 - Working at public health units in Ontario
- Focus group interviews with male and female (self-identified) youth
 - 2 groups (5 male; 4 female)
 - Youth 16 - 19 years old, newcomer status
 - Personal contacts through role as a youth worker
 - Snowball and convenience sampling
- Poststructural discourse analysis
- Note bene: 'Positivist' vs 'Interpretivist' vs 'Critical' Qualitative Research



The Social Production of Space - Henri Lefebvre

The basis of Lefebvre's ideas was that **space is socially produced**: space is a social product that is actively created and modified.

How does space influence experiences and conceptualization of (public) health spaces?

Space is constituted of:

1. Conceived space: the representations which dominant groups in society produce to define space (cognitive production of space);
1. Perceived space: idea of social practice or space as (re)produced in everyday life; and
1. Lived space: space as **directly** lived through its associated symbols and images by the inhabitants/users of that space



1) Conceived Space

Currently, the HPV vaccine is offered free of charge in Ontario schools in school-based clinics to ensure they [girls and boys] do not miss the **opportunity** to be immunized. - Ontario Ministry of Education

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/april2016/HPV_Changes.pdf

School based education about the importance of immunization

Educating youth early about vaccines may influence their attitudes and ability to make informed immunization decisions when they become adults and parents.

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publicatns/reports/immunization/immun_sys_review_march2014.aspx

School and community partnerships

Engage parents, extended family, school staff, and community groups in a mutually beneficial way to support, enhance, and promote opportunities for learning and healthy schools policies, programs, and initiatives. These partnerships can involve engaging and coordinating services, expertise, and resources that are available, within the school and local community, from a wide array of groups (e.g., school council, student council, public health units); and making connections with the broader community through on-site programs

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health1to8.pdf>



2) Perceived Space

I don't think school's a place where you should be getting vaccines. We're there to learn. I don't think it has anything to do with school itself. I think that's something you should be getting at the doctor's for comfort and from a hygiene perspective. There's no kind of privacy or patient confidentiality. - Female youth

Well, sometimes it's just a little too cramped. There's not enough room really. Sometimes they just try to put you in a really small room or something and it's not really conducive to confidentiality when you're talking to the students, and if there was a situation it would be a little bit, you'd almost be climbing over each other sometimes. You have to kind of advocate, if you can, to have a new space by the time they set up the next clinic. There's some concerns that you've had and that you'd appreciate a different space. - Nurse

It was dark. Really dark. It was uncomfortable. The auditorium is always dark. They covered the windows. They covered everything. I think the space was too big. There were only a few of us so it felt really huge. - Female youth

It was the cafeteria in the school, and everyone was lined up and there was this whole negative vibe. They just lined up, got it and left. -Male youth



3) Lived Space

Nurses	Youth
<p>Wait outside...or in a line .where [youth] can be monitored to make sure there's no adverse reaction. -Nurse 8</p>	<p>It hurt so bad. Yeah it hurt. Really, really bad. I was crying. They didn't give us a band-aid I remember that. They [nurses] were just like hold it. Squeeze down and you'll be fine. - Female</p>
<p>"Nervous and young", "kids feeling like they're gonna faint", "all worked up and stressed", "flustered", "in a tizzy." -Nurse 2</p>	<p>A lot of nurses weren't even that nice. It was just like, next, next. It was scary. I was thinking they would talk to you. I didn't feel comfortable. -Female</p>
<p>I believe in the science behind it...it's not hard for me to believe in [Health Canada's approval]. -Nurse 5</p>	<p>Everyone was scared. I remember looking at some people and they had a serious face on. I mean most people didn't even know what the shot was. -Male</p>
<p>There was almost a point where nurses weren't comfortable. I try to inject as much humour and fun with it. - Nurse 11</p>	<p>There's a lot of guys in there, I guess nurses. It's uncomfortable for grade 8 when it's only the girls who are taking it. I just felt out of place where you stand. - Female</p>



Tense Space and What PCS Can Do for You



“...the most important, I think, thing you can do as a healthcare, and I don't, again, don't like to use the word 'professional'...health care person...is to listen.” (hpvvn 11)



TAKE HOMES

- Each of us experiences the world as an **embodied being** that is part of a **socially produced space**;
- Youth and public health nurses experience **the space of vaccination** differently;
- The **differences in experience** are IMPORTANT to public health practice!
- Physical Cultural Studies can give us tools to talk about, research, and explore these differences.



Thank you!

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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