

FPJ, IPJO, IFRJ-MFJ, RIETI, Kyoto University Seminar  
**Handout**

---

**“Socio-Life Science Interdisciplinary Seminar  
: Stakes of COVID-19 vaccination”**

July 3, 2021

Jeremy K. WARD

<https://www.rieti.go.jp/jp/index.html>



# **Vaccine hesitancy: perspectives from France**

Jeremy K. Ward

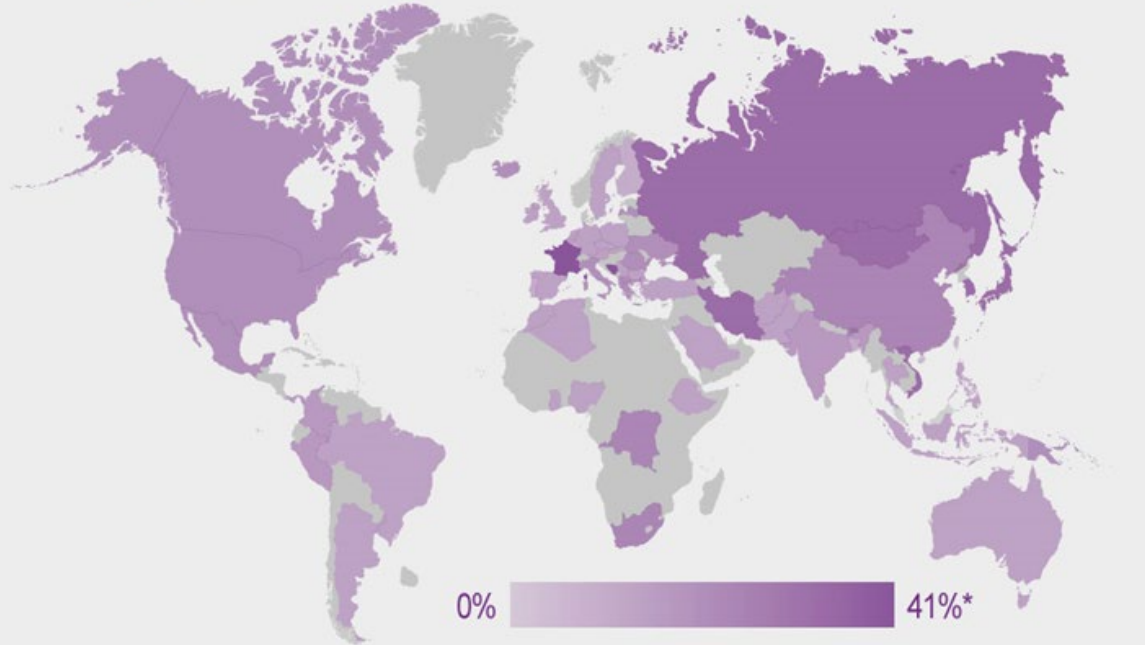
Associate Researcher, INSERM

CERMES3 (INSERM, CNRS, EHESS, U Paris)

VITROME (Aix-Marseille Université, IRD, IHU Med Infec)

# France: one of the most vaccine-hesitant countries in the world

Percentage of people who disagree with the statement: "overall I think vaccines are safe"

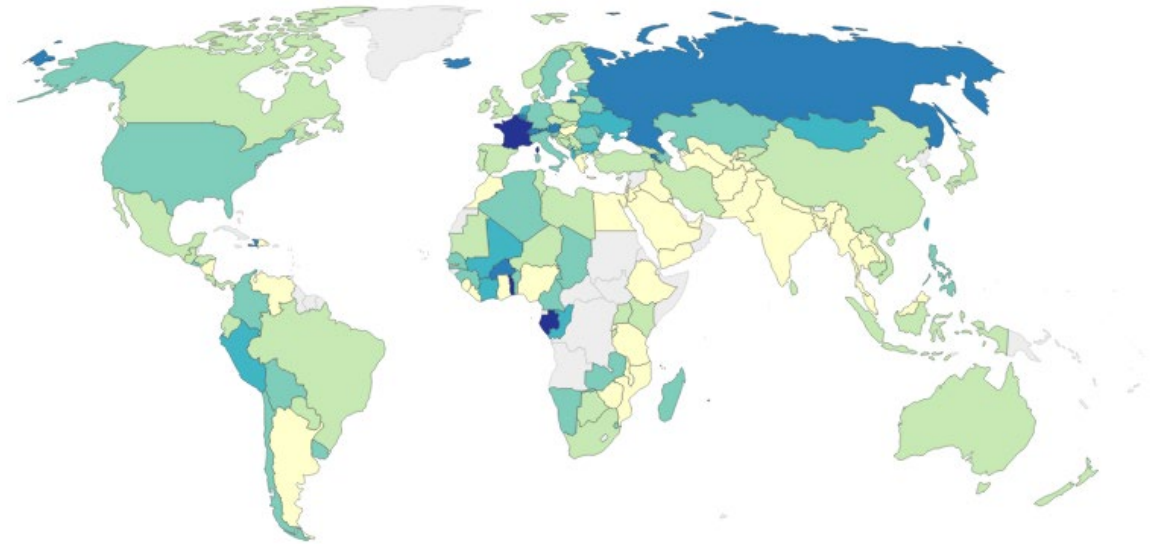


Larson et al. *EBioMedicine*, 2016

Share that disagrees that vaccines are safe, 2018

The share of respondents who responded "strongly disagree" or "somewhat disagree" to the statement 'Vaccines are safe.'

Our World in Data



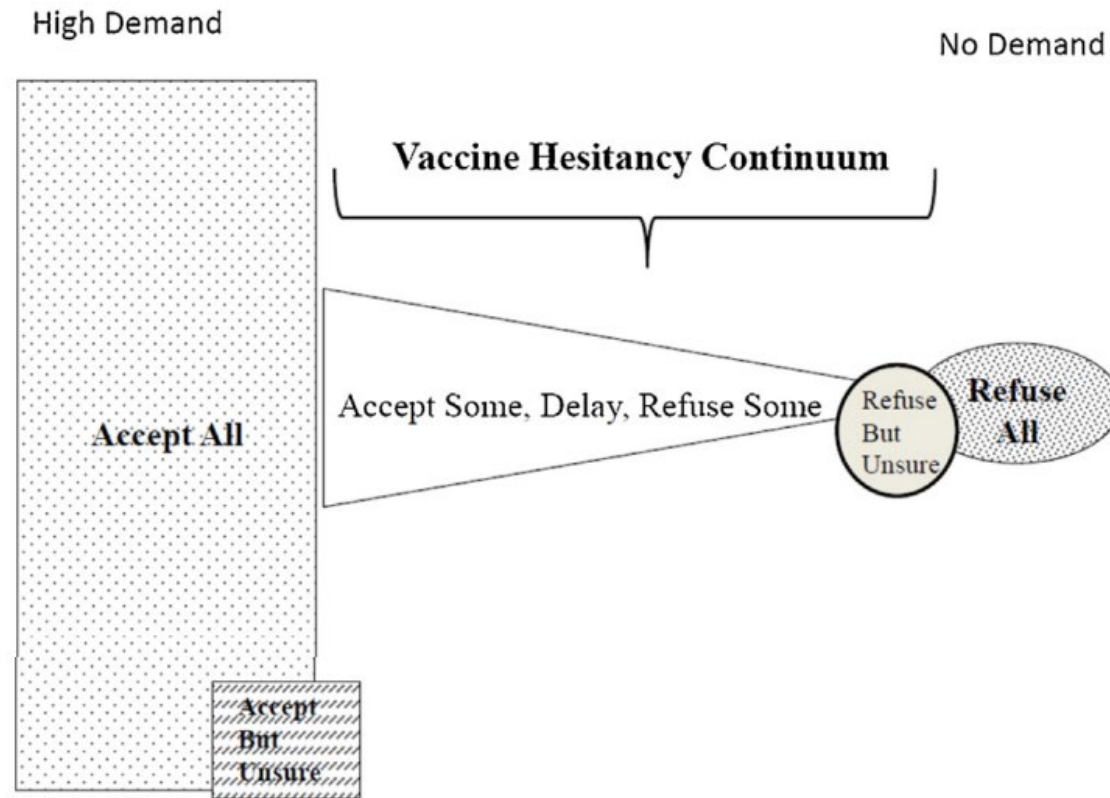
No data 0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% >30%

Wellcome Trust, 2018

Source: Wellcome Trust Global Monitor (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/vaccination • CC BY

# What is vaccine hesitancy?



**Fig. 1.** The continuum of vaccine hesitancy between full acceptance and outright refusal of all vaccines.

# Hesitancy vs antivaccinationism

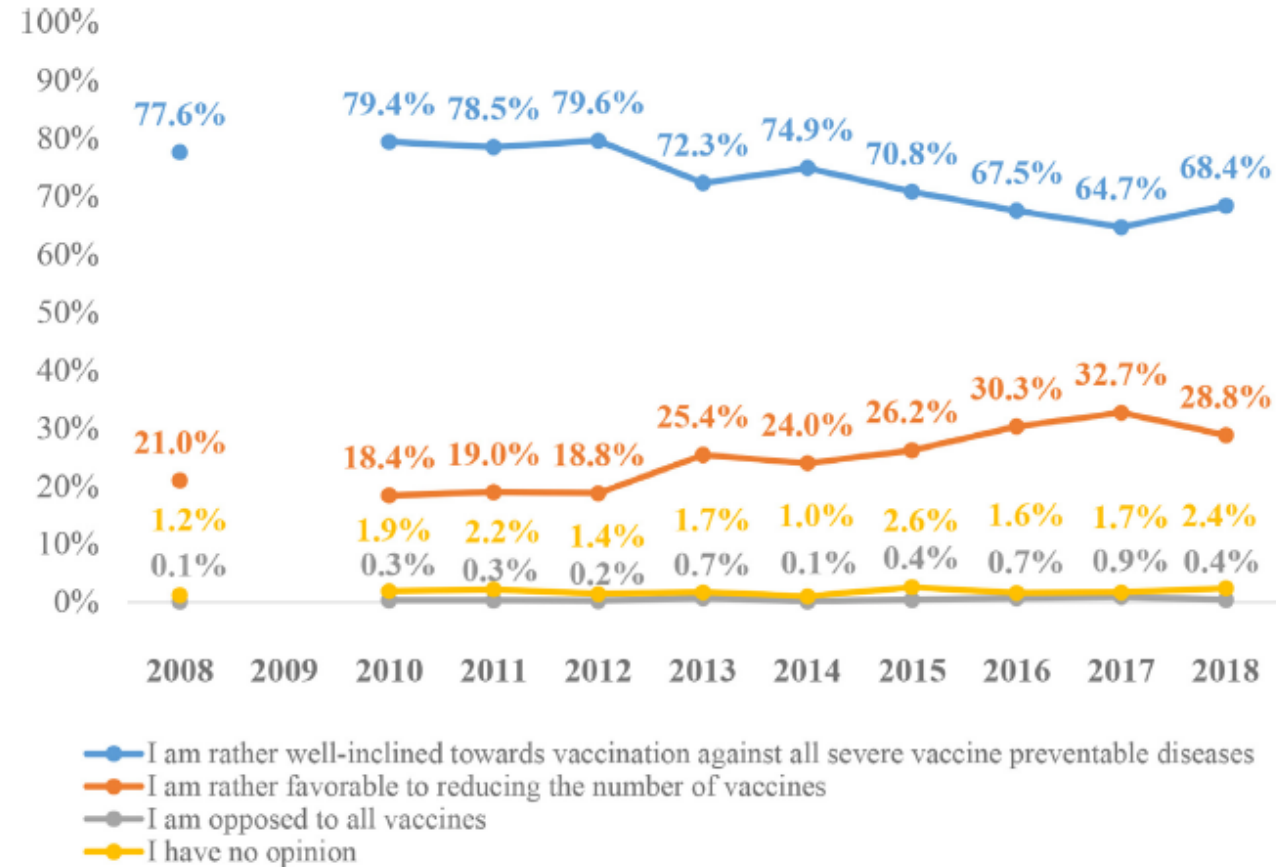


Fig. 1. Evolution of the proportion of 0- to 11-month-old infants' mothers (i) well-inclined towards vaccination against all severe vaccine preventable diseases, and (ii) favorable to reducing the number of vaccines, 2008–2018. Study population: 1667 mothers in 2008, 2250 mothers in 2010 and 2012, and 1000 mothers in 2011, 2013 to 2018. No data available for 2009.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST !!!

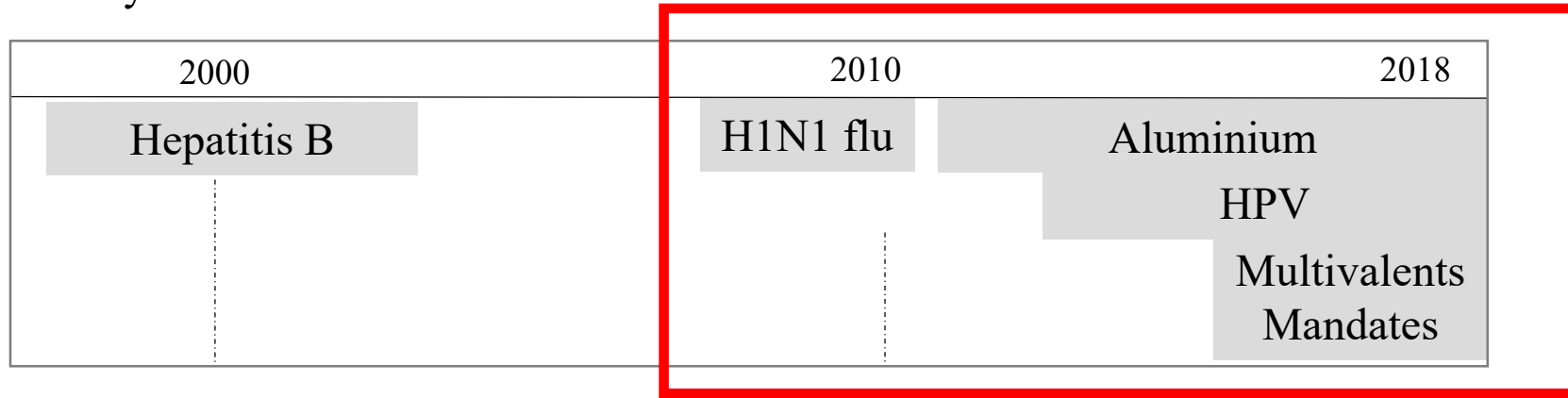
- Vaccination is not just about science and medicine
- Trust goes hand in hand with the perception that you benefit from « the system »
- In France, health issues have become more controversial since the end of the 1980s

## Recommended books:

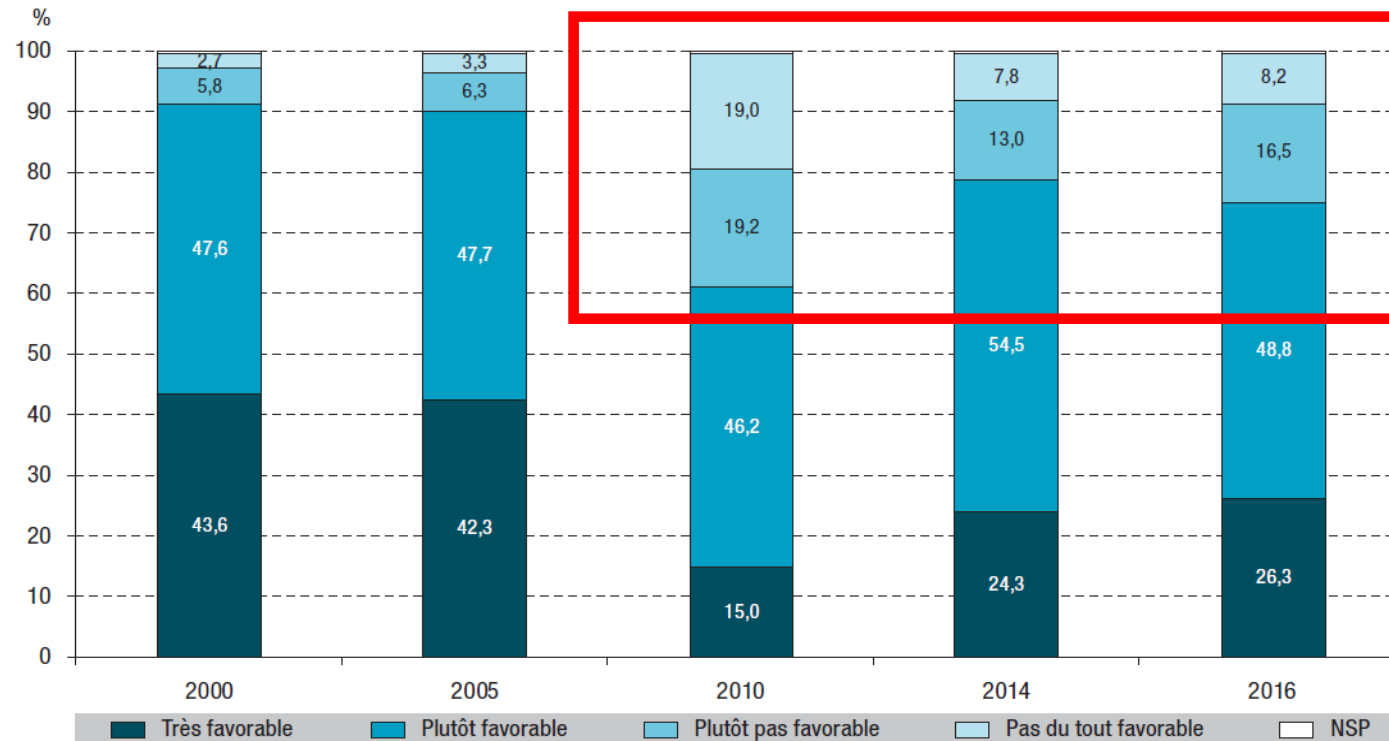
Maya Goldenberg, **Vaccine Hesitancy: Public Trust, Expertise, and the War on Science**, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021

Gil Eyal, **The crisis of Expertise**, Polity Press, 2019

# Public debates over the safety of vaccines



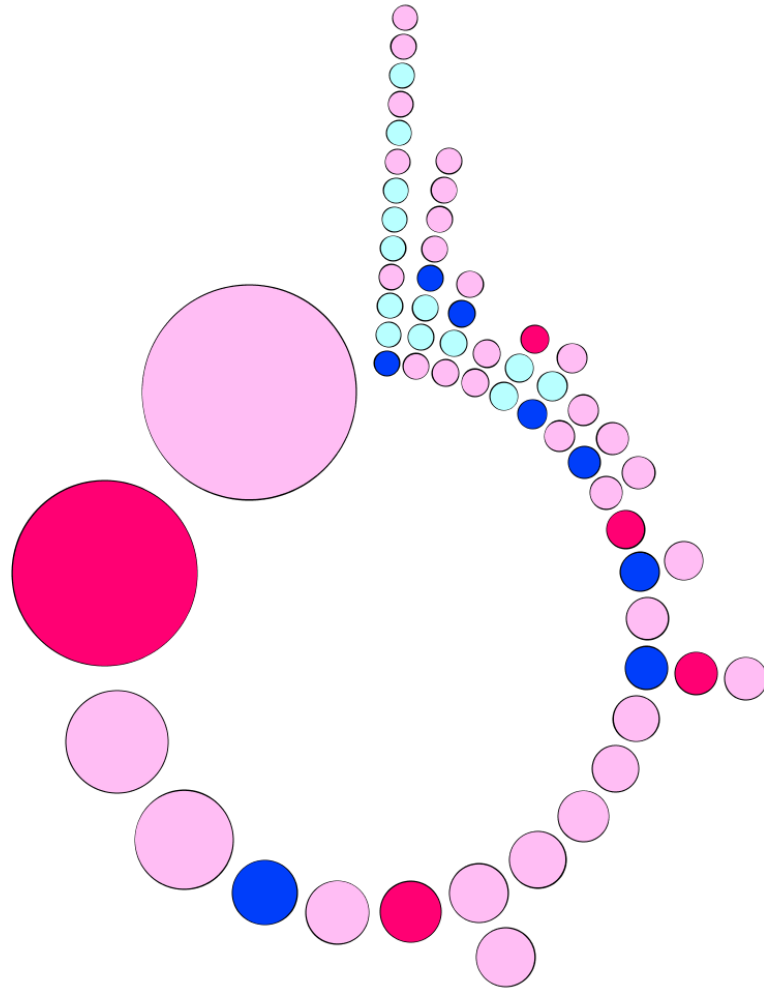
Évolution de l'adhésion à la vaccination (en %) parmi les 18-75 ans, France, 2000-2016



Share of French people who are unfavorable to vaccines

Sources : Baromètres santé 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014, 2016, Santé publique France. NSP : ne sait pas.

## The most prominent vaccine critics do not reject vaccination in general



Vaccine critics in the French mainstream media from 1990 to 2019 (size proportional to number of mentions)

Pink: only criticise some vaccines

Blue: reject all vaccines

Cafiero, Guille-Escuret, Ward., *“I’m not an antivaxxer, but...”: Spurious and authentic diversity among vaccine critical activists*, Social Networks, 2021.



## Conclusion: what about COVID-19?

High levels of hesitancy AND great variations in intentions to vaccinate

- The share of the French population willing to vaccinate against covid has never been superior to 75%
- It has been as low as 40-45% (in december 2020)

Doubts are focused on certain vaccines:

Share of the French adult population with a positive attitude toward the efficacy and safety of the different vaccines against COVID-19

Variable	Effective (very or somewhat)		Safe (very or somewhat)	
	N	%	N	%
<b>Vaccins</b>				
<b>AstraZeneca</b>	1436	47,0	1047	34,3
<b>Pfizer</b>	2141	70,0	2084	68,2
<b>Moderna</b>	1921	62,9	1867	61,1
<b>Janssen</b>	1283	42,0	1165	38,1
<b>Sputnik</b>	676	22,1	574	18,7

Source: COVIREIVAC survey, 10-23 May 2021, n= 3056

Accessible here:

[www.orspaca.org/productions/notes-strategiques](http://www.orspaca.org/productions/notes-strategiques)

## Conclusion: what about COVID-19?

- Hesitancy is very linked to political identities

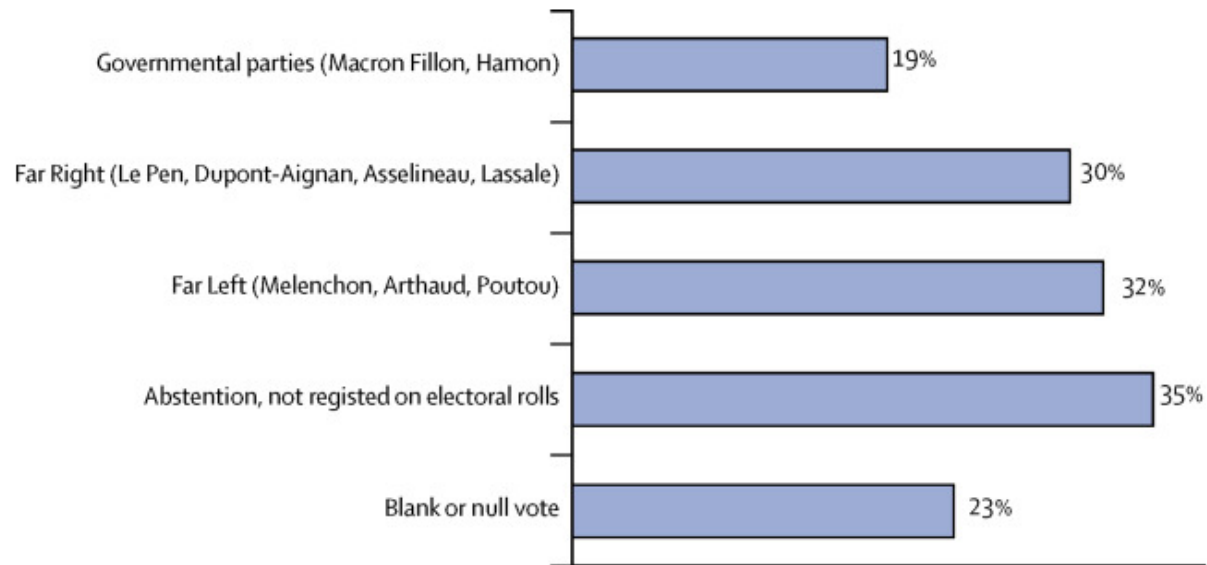


Figure The French public's intention to refuse vaccination against COVID-19 according to their vote at the first round of the 2017 presidential election, March 27-29, COCONEL Survey (n=1012)

Groupe Coconel, A future vaccination campaign against COVID-19 at risk of vaccine hesitancy and politicisation, *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 2020

For a more detailed analysis, see:

Ward J.K., Alleaume C., Peretti-Watel., Groupe Coconel, The French public's attitudes to a future COVID-19 vaccine: The politicization of a public health issue, *Social Science and Medicine*, 2020.



**Thank you for your attention**

Jeremy K. Ward

Contact: [jeremy.ward.socio\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.ward.socio@gmail.com)

For more, on vaccine hesitancy in general, see:

Dubé, Ward, Verger, MacDonald, Vaccine Hesitancy, Acceptance, and Anti-Vaccination: Trends and Future Prospects for Public Health, *Annual reviews of public health*, 2021

For more on Vaccine Hesitancy in France, see:

Ward, Peretti-Watel, Bocquier, Seror, Verger, Vaccine hesitancy and coercion: all eyes on France, *Nature Immunology*, 2019