

Peer Review Report

Review Report on About the essence of trust: Tell the truth and let me choose – I might trust you.

Theory & Concept, Int J Public Health

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

The author has a very interesting approach to the idea of defining and describing trust in health care. They clearly mention that it is an oversimplification done with the intention of initiating a debate. This is very good. Even as I read the paper, I had several questions in my mind. I will raise these questions, more as an expression of how effective this paper is in initiating a debate, and less as a critique. The greatest strength of the paper is the conversational style in which it is written. Some of the limitations are that the paper does not draw extensively from previous literature on trust. there are very few references. Conceptual engagement with deeper ideas and using them to build on arguments is a very sound method, but this does not seem to be present.

Q 2 Please comment on the reported results and data interpretation. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

There are no data that have been analysed and reported here. So I have no specific comments in this section.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the editor and authors (including any comments on the Q4 Check List):

Here are some questions that came up in my mind when I read the paper. The author has successfully initiated the process of debate which they stated as the main aim of the paper.

1. The paper focuses on communication as the core of trust building. I agree with this. But besides communication, there are some very important other factors that lead to trust building. Is communication a part of trust or does it contribute to trust? This is an essential question.
2. Trust has been defined as an acceptance of a state of vulnerability in the hope that the trusted party will do whatever is in the best interest of the trusting party. This conceptualisation would necessarily include competence or a perception of competence as a dimension of trust. If competence is a matter of importance in trust, how does trust build with only communication?
3. One of the important ideas to be handled when discussing trust, is the role of ethics and moral values in trust building. Communication can be faked. All con artists are people who have excellent communication skills. They easily earn trust of their clients. But this is not trust. This is deception. what does the author consider is the role of moral values as an underpinning value in trust?

It would be useful for the author to consider these points as debates that have been initiated by their very interesting piece.

Q 4 Check List

Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes.

Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Not Applicable.

Is the hypothesis testable in the framework of current knowledge?

Yes.

If the manuscript includes original data, are the applied methods accurate and comprehensively described?

Not Applicable.

Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

No.

Does the study adhere to ethical standards in the field?

Not Applicable.

Q 5 Please summarize the Theory, findings and viewpoint reported.

The author attempts to simplify the idea of trust in health care and say that trust in health care is a matter of communicating truth in an effective manner.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 6 Originality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 7 Significance to the field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 8 Interest to a general audience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 9 Quality of the writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 10 Overall quality of the study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>