Anti Vaxxers – a threat to international security?
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With the emergence of Covid-19 and its global impact, a vaccine had to be developed, researched, and distributed. This gave another voice to a phenomenon with a predominant core in the USA – so called "Anti-Vaxxers", a movement that adamantly refuses to get vaccinated on arbitrary grounds. Vaccine-refusal is not an entirely new phenomenon, though during the Covid pandemic it reached entirely new dimensions. What seemed like an isolated problem overseas at first, has developed into a serious issue in Europe as well. Connections of the Anti-Vaxxer movement to right-wing extremists which are prone to violence, as well as the threat of cyberattacks on producers of the vaccine are factors which make this issue even more pressing. Although the Covid crisis has mainly been averted, it still maintains a high level of uncertainty, threat and urgency and therefore requires advanced systems thinking on a wide range of strategies to deal with possible outcomes to mitigate the existential consequences for communities and health systems. Right-winged networks and conspiracy theorists use insecurities and fear around the Covid pandemic to strategically target social media and recruit new members all over the globe. This makes a clear strategy difficult to establish, as disinformation is spread. National and international security may be compromised when not dealing with aforementioned threats.

This paper will highlight some of the surrounding aspects of the Anti-Vaxxer movement, as well as their connections to more "real" and tangible security threats in order to stress the importance of this issue. Furthermore, key strategies will be identified with a possible outlook into the near future.