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1 Introduction: How Social are Vaccines? -- 2 A Social History of Vaccines -- 3 Social Values, Politics and Power -- 3 Relations in the Development and Regulation of Vaccines -- 4 Vaccines in Media -- 5 Vaccine Inequalities -- 6 Animals and Vaccination -- 7 Conclusion and Future Research Agenda.

Sommario/riassunto

This book argues that the social story of vaccination has commonly been told through the lens of vaccine hesitancy and the myriad challenges that this broad issue poses for public health and the mitigation of preventable harms. Consequently, less sustained analytical attention has been given by social scientists to the rich tapestry of other social and political dimensions of vaccines and consequences of vaccination. This book begins from the premise that a broader approach to the technology and intervention of vaccination is required and that further social scientific analysis is needed of how societies produce and preserve high levels of vaccination coverage, as well as the social and political challenges or threats – beyond vaccine hesitancy – that may harm or restrict it. To achieve this, the book assembles and reframes evidence from medical sociology, science and technology studies, public health, health geography, and the medical humanities. In doing so it looks across the ‘immunisation social order’ by analysing dimensions that have thus far been neglected or under-scrutinised, revealing not only the functioning of and central challenges to the immunisation social order, but also bringing into sharp focus the social and political nature of vaccines themselves. Tom Douglass is a Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham. He is a sociologist by background and has research interests within health and social care. He has worked on a range of qualitative and mixed methods research projects concerned with vaccine hesitancy, patient complaints and care home closures. Alistair Anderson is a geographer with research interests in health behaviours and veterinary medicine. As a mixed-methods social researcher, he has worked on projects concerning antibiotic stewardship, vaccine hesitancy, and the experience of work in the veterinary profession.