8 - Scientific Literacy and Socio-scientific Issues | Empirical

SP - (15683) - HANDLING UNCERTAINTY IN THE CASE OF VACCINES: STUDENTS' CHALLENGES INTERPRETING ONLINE SOURCES

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Short Abstract

Working collaboratively with complex and controversial issues is challenging. Students learning to engage in such intellectual practices involves not only positive emotional aspects such as curiosity, but also involves learning to manage confusion and uncertainty. The understanding of the broad variety of modalities embedded in socioscientific inquiry is still limited. In this paper, we attend to how emotion is entangled with epistemological concerns for students engaged in socioscientific inquiry using a digital visualization tool for handling and structuring information on HPV vaccine encountered online. We conduct a multimodal analysis of emotion as coordinated interaction. The analysis of emotion shows how uncertainty is produced in the interaction, interrupted and replaced. The episodes show how the students coordinate uncertainty and resolve problems in a critical phase of collaborative work. It is illustrated how the students, not only by telling that they do not know, but also accompanying this with embodied courses of action like gestures and bodily orientations, are doing what has been termed epistemic affect. By continuing to study students' emotions in interactionwe learn how the coordination of emotions function to instigate and drive epistemic pursuits.