

**« Shaping treatment outcomes :
How parents affect decisions in routine
illness medical visits in the US »**

Prof. Tanya Stivers

Department of Sociology, University of California Los Angeles

Antibiotic over-prescribing is well known as an international problem. Advances have been made in addressing this problem, but it nonetheless persists. One account for this is the role that parent-physician interaction plays in the clinic visits in which prescribing occurs.

In this talk I discuss a series of specific ways in which parents' social interaction with their children's physicians affects whether or not the child receives antibiotic treatment. I show that parents can shape the outcome of the clinical visit through behaviors introduced at all points in the visit.

I then discuss the generalizability of this problem and some of the possible solutions with a particular focus on the role of mixed methods in bringing social interaction research to bear on public health problems.