

Open Letter to Springer Editors

January 18, 2021

Dear editors, Drs. Merchant, Warhade, and Adhikari,

I am a signed language researcher, deaf American Sign Language (ASL) user and linguistics professor at Gallaudet University in Washington DC, USA. I am writing in regard to the dismayed reaction I had to the chapter - "[Implementation of Hand Gesture Recognition System to Aid Deaf-Dumb People](#)"ⁿⁱ that you were overseeing as editors. As you can see below, many colleagues expressed mutual dismay at this article, and have contributed to, and co-signed this letter. My colleagues and I represent various deaf signing communities, the signed language research community, deaf pioneers in sign language technologies, and allied fields in computer science, psychology, interpreting, disability services, disability studies, signed language teaching, linguistics, audiology, biomedical science, and mental health, among many others.

We are appalled that this work was allowed to be published. We question the peer review process that enabled such publication. It is clearly and immediately evident that the authors are not working with the relevant signing communities, where they live and research. The technology they are discussing is claiming to solve a communication problem, when in fact it is not. For instance, the dataset described by the authors only contains eight gestures. All of us work with signed languages – the databases we use to support our work, with some examples listed below, contain several thousands of entries, and these thousands of entries do not come close to capturing the full lexicons of our signed languages. Promoting false beliefs that signed languages are not linguistic communication is highly problematic and refuted by historical and current research (see references below).

This publication raises significant ethical issues. In the past few years, members of the deaf communities and signed language researchers have agreed on very clear guidelines about this kind of work (e.g., Harris, Holmes, Mertens, 2009; Singleton, Martin, & Morgan, 2015; [Ethics Statement from Sign Language Linguistics Society](#)). First and foremost, work of this nature must, at a minimum, be done in collaboration with the communities who stand to be most impacted by this work. Better yet, this work should be led by members of these communities. In this case, deaf scholars in the relevant communities must be involved. Second, authors and editors of any paper, in any field, have an obligation to ensure that relevant literature has been consulted. Had you done so in this case, this chapter would have never made it to print given the already-rich literature related to these topics.

As editors, you have a responsibility to ensure that the language and framing used by your authors are appropriate and respectful. Offensive terms like “deaf and dumb” and “deaf-mute” have been outdated for over 50 years and are rejected by the communities the terms attempt to describe. Framing deaf people, a minority group, as “victims” and contrasting them to “ordinary people” is unbelievably insulting. Implying that signed languages are not “linguistic communication” is factually incorrect. This kind of language is unacceptable in an academic publication, violates APA guidelines for disability as outlined here, <https://apastyle.apa.org/style->

[grammar-guidelines/bias-free-language/disability](#), and offends the deaf signing communities and allies. Deaf people are fully capable of learning to read and write fluently in whatever spoken language is locally used, on top of using their signed languages which are equally as full, complex, nuanced and expressive.

Recent efforts have tried to bridge the divide between emerging technology research groups, and the deaf scholars, engineers, and scientists who have the relevant content knowledge. One such example is the CREST (Cultivating Research & Equity in Sign-related Technology) Network, a virtual community of people working in the fields of technology related to sign language (e.g., sign language documentation, sign language recognition, sign language technology, or sign language animation). Along with connecting with their local deaf community, we would encourage authors Ghule and Chavaan to consider connecting to, and learning from, this network if they plan to continue research in this field.

Ultimately, we call for the immediate retraction of this chapter and the issuance of an apology. We await your reply at your earliest convenience. This open letter has been posted online ([10.6084/m9.figshare.13600940](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.13600940)ⁱⁱ). In closing, we share the following for your future reference.

[“Do deaf communities actually want sign language gloves?”](#) by Dr. Joseph Hillⁱⁱⁱ

[“Indian Sign Language should be declared official language, but only taught by Deaf trainers”](#) by Dr. Alim Chandani^{iv}

[“Why Sign-Language Gloves Don't Help Deaf People”](#) by Michael Erard (which cites several signed language researchers and their objections, including myself)^v

[Sign Language Translating Devices Are Cool. But Are They Useful?](#) By Emily Matchar (features quotes from Deaf perspectives)^{vi}

[Open letter from the University of Washington Department of Linguistics](#)^{vii}

Harris, R., Holmes, H. M., & Mertens, D. M. (2009). Research Ethics in Sign Language Communities. In *Sign Language Studies*, 9, 2 pp. 104–131).
<https://doi.org/10.1353/sls.0.0011>

Singleton, J., A. Martin, & G. Morgan. (2015). Ethics, Deaf-Friendly Research, and Good Practice When Studying Sign Languages. In E. Orfanidou, B. Woll, & G. Morgan (Eds.), *Research Methods in Sign Language Studies*, pp. 7-20. Hoboken: Wiley & Sons, Inc.

[Sign Language Linguistics Society \(SLLS\) Ethics statement](#)^{viii}

“The FATE Landscape of Sign Language AI Datasets: An Interdisciplinary Perspective” by Danielle Bragg, Naomi Caselli, Julie A. Hochgesang, Matt Huenerfauth, Leah Katz-Hernandez, Oscar Koller, Raja Kushalnagar, Christian Vogler and Richard E. Ladner will

be published later this year [here](#)^{ix}

“Sign Language Recognition, Generation, and Translation: An Interdisciplinary Perspective” by Danielle Bragg, Oscar Koller, Mary Bellard, Larwan Berke, Patrick Boudreault, Annelies Braffort, Naomi Caselli, Matt Huenerfauth, Hernisa Kacorri, Tessa Verhoef, Christian Vogler and Meredith Ringel Morris (laying out five calls to action for the community was published [here and won best paper award](#))^x

[CREST Network \(Cultivating Research and Equity in Sign-related Technology\)](#)^{xi}

Some corpora and signbanks (alphabetical order), which exemplify work done by or with the signed language communities

[Asian Signbank](#)^{xii}

[ASL Signbank](#)^{xiii}

[Auslan Signbank](#)^{xiv}

[BSL Corpus](#)^{xv}

[BSL Signbank](#)^{xvi}

[Danish Sign Language Dictionary](#)^{xvii}

[DGS Corpus](#)^{xviii}

[Finnish Signbank](#)^{xix}

[LIBRAS Signbank](#)^{xx}

[NGT Corpus](#)^{xxi}

[NGT & Global Signbank](#)^{xxii}

[Russian Sign Language Corpus](#)^{xxiii}

[Singapore Sign Language Signbank](#)^{xxiv}

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie A. Hochgesang, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Co-signed by:

Dr. Terra Edwards, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Saint Louis University, USA

Dr. Alim Chandani, Founder of Access Mantra Foundation, Mission Leader of ‘Hear a Million’ Project by Enable India, in India and World Federation of the Deaf Accessibility Group Expert, IN

Dr. Cecily Whitworth, PhD in Linguistics, deaf advocate, USA

Dr. Wyatt C. Hall, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, Public Health Sciences, and Neurology, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Dr. Jon Henner, Specialized Education Services (SES) Department, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, USA

Dr. Christian Vogler, School of Science, Technology, Accessibility, Mathematics and Public Health / Director of the Technology Access Program, Gallaudet University, USA

Prof. Dr. Christian Rathmann, Deaf Studies & Interpreting at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, DE

Dr. Gerardo Ortega, Department of English Language and Linguistics, University of Birmingham, UK

Dr. Adam Schembri, Reader in Linguistics in the Department of English Language and Linguistics, University of Birmingham, UK

Dr. Lorna Quandt, PhD in Educational Neuroscience program, Co-Founder of the CREST Network, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Ryan Lepic, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Leah Geer, American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, California State University, Sacramento, USA

Razi Zarchy, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, Sacramento, USA

Dr. Nathan Sanders, Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto, CA

Thad Starner, Professor of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Dani Fried, MA in interpreting and translation, AUS

Caitie Coons, PhD Student, Department of Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Corrine Occhino, NTID Center on Culture and Language, USA

Jill Henshaw, British Sign Language/English Interpreter Director of ASLI, UK, EUMASLI MSc Student at Heriot-Watt University, SCT

Dr. Laura Mauldin, Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut, USA

Nicole Cartagna, MA, CI, CT, Interpretopia, Inc, ASL/English Interpreter specializing in STEM, USA

Dr. Jill Bradbury, Department of English, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Ben Braithwaite, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Betsy Sneller, Department of Linguistics at Michigan State University, USA

Heather Hamilton, PhD candidate, Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Michael Erard, author, linguist, Institute of Data Science, Maastricht University, NL

Dr. Diane Lillo-Martin, Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut, Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratories, USA

Brittany Arnold, PhD candidate, Department of Language and Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), NO

Dr. Tonya Stremlau, Department of English, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Christina Yuknis, Department of Education, Gallaudet University, USA

Jules Good, deaf member of the ASL community, USA

Prof. Dr. Agnes Villwock, Sign Languages, Institute for Rehabilitation Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, DE

Dr. Anna-Lena Nilsson, Department of Sign Language and Interpreting, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), NO

Dr. Carl Börstell, Department of Linguistics, Stockholm University, SE

Dr. Joseph Murray, Department of Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University, USA

Brian A. Cheslik, MS/ ABD EdD, Deaf Studies & Deaf Education, Lamar University, USA

Robert G. Lee, Senior Lecturer In British Sign Language and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire, UK

Dr. Matthew L. Hall, Ph.D., Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Temple University, USA

Dr. Jennifer Nelson, Department of English and Honors Program Director, Gallaudet University, USA

Emilio Ferreiro-Lago, PhD Candidate of Health Sciences, University of Castilla-La Mancha, ES

Dr. Stephanie L. Kerschbaum, Department of English, University of Delaware, USA

Mary Vreeland, Communication Media, Fitchburg State University Massachusetts, USA

Dr. Gabrielle Jones, Education Studies, University of California, San Diego, USA

Dr. Heidi MacGlaughlin, Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, Lamar University, USA

Dr. Sharon Pajka, Department of English, Gallaudet University, USA

Donald A. Grushkin, Ph.D., Deaf Studies, California State University - Sacramento, USA

Dr. Beth Hamilton, Advocacy and liaison of the Deaf community, USA

Melissa Malzkuhn, Founder & Creative Director, Motion Light Lab, Co-founder CREST Network, Gallaudet University, USA

Aileen Aldalur, Ph.D. Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Dr. Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research, Professor in Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin, IE

Jim Brune, Certified Deaf Interpreter, USA

Tyler G. James, M.S., CHES, Department of Health Education and Behavior, University of Florida, USA

Isabelle Heyerick, IAS Fellow at University of Warwick, Signed Language Interpreting Studies, UK

Ian Smith, MA Linguistics, Deaf community member, and senior software engineer, USA

Dr. Angus Grieve Smith, Web Developer, The New School, USA, developer of SignSynth. USA

Dr. Kate Rowley, UCL Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre, UK

Lisa Hinderks, MSc Medical Anthropology and Sociology, Sign Language activist, NL

Abigail Gorman, MSc Gender, Sexuality and Society, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK

Kyle Langfitt, MS, audiology resident and ASL-English interpreter, USA

Dr. Mark Halley, Department of Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education, University of North Florida, USA

David G. Phillips, MA, NIC, Department of Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education, University of North Florida, USA

Ari Price, MSW, MA Global Communications, WFD Media Team, Paris, FR

Tom Peach, Languages and Linguistics Librarian, York St John University, UK

Dr Dai O'Brien, School of Education, Languages and Psychology, York St John University, UK.

Kaj Kraus, PhD student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Kevin McCready, B.A. (Hons), Dip. Ed., B.Ec. Sign Language activist and researcher, USA

Dr. Kym Meyer, The Learning Center for the Deaf, Framingham, MA, USA

Dr. Raychelle Harris, Department of ASL, Gallaudet University, USA

Brienna Herold, PhD Student, Department of Computing and Information Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA

Karin O'Reilly, Teacher of the Deaf, Certified Auslan/English Interpreter, PhD Student, School of Psychology, University of Queensland, Australia

Suzannah Jackson, Psychologist, MPsych(Clin) James Cook University & Provisional Auslan Interpreter, NAATI, AUS

Dr. Jennie Pyers, Department of Psychology, Wellesley College, USA

Dr. Amber Gonzalez, Child and Adolescent Development, College of Education, California State University Sacramento, USA

Katrina Espey, MS CCC-SLP, Sacramento County Office of Education - Infant Development Program, USA

Dr. Sarah Sparks, AuD, CCC-A, Audiologist, Department of Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences, Gallaudet University, USA

Margie English, Department of Interpretation and Translation, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Emma Ferguson-Coleman, Research Fellow, University of Manchester, UK

Adithya Kumar, culturally Deaf and student at Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, IN

Guri Bugge, mother of deaf child, NO

Maya de Wit, Msc, Sign Language Interpreting Consultancy, NL

Prof. Dr. Okan Kubus, Sign Language Interpreting, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, DE

Dr. John Bosco Conama, Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College, University of Dublin, IE

Dr. Emily Kubicek, Data Scientist, The Walt Disney Company, Los Angeles, USA

Dr. Matthew Dye, Department of Liberal Studies, Department of Psychology, RIT/NTID, USA

Dr. Marie Coppola, Departments of Psychological Sciences and Linguistics, University of Connecticut, USA

Dr. Michael Ballard, Program Director of ASL and Deaf Studies, Utah Valley University, USA

Danny De Weerd, Department of Language and Communication Studies, University of Jyväskylä, FI

Dr. Emily M. Bender, Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, USA

Karolien Gebruers, Interpreter Flemish Sign Language - Dutch, guest-lecturer KU Leuven campus Antwerp, Belgium president of CPD organisation Tenuto vzw, BE

Torill Ringsø, PhD student in Signed Language Linguistics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Timothy Y. Loh, PhD student in History, Anthropology, Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

Dr. Gabrielle Hodge, Deaf postdoctoral researcher at DCAL (Deafness Cognition & Language Research Centre), University College London, UK

Camilla Foote, member of the deaf community, NO

Dr. Krister Schönström, Department of Linguistics, Stockholm University, SE

Dr. Deanna Gagne, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Mallorie Evans, MA, FAAA, Audiologist, Los Angeles Unified School District, Part-time Faculty, California State University, Northridge, USA

Emma Halford, Site Librarian, NHS, UK

Irene Strasly, Sign Language researcher, Université de Genève, CH

Dr. Ingela Holmström, Department of Linguistics, Stockholm University, SE

Dr. Hilde Haualand, Department of International Studies and Interpreter Education, Oslo Metropolitan University, NO

Marie Adrienne Robles Manalili, Speech-Language Pathologist, Philippine Association of Speech Pathologists, PH

Thomas H. Clerc, [@deafmemes.exe](https://deafmemes.exe), USA

Eleanor Colla, research consultant, USA

Margy MacMillan, Professor Emerita, Mount Royal University, CA

Meredith Peruzzi, Museum Coordinator, Gallaudet University Museum, USA

Dr. Barbara Shaffer, Signed Language Interpreting Program, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Vibeke Bø, PhD student, OsloMet, NO

Dr. Jodi Falk, PhD in Deaf Education, Executive Director of St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf in Brooklyn, NY

Deborah Wager, PhD Candidate, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Daniel Maier, PhD student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Erin Wilkinson, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Nozomi Tomita, Member of Deaf Community in Japan, PhD Candidate, Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Ardavan Guity, Member of Deaf community in Iran, PhD candidate, Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Sherman Wilcox, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Dr. M. Diane Clark, Department of Deaf Education and Deaf Studies, Lamar University, USA

Dr. Danielle I.J. Hunt, Department of Interpretation and Translation, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Terry Janzen, Department of Linguistics, University of Manitoba, CA

Nina Feygl Semushina, PhD Candidate in Linguistics and Anthropogeny, University of California San Diego, USA

Dr. Mirko Santoro, researcher at Laboratoire, SFL Université Paris8, CNRS Paris, FR

Dr. Valentina Aristodemo, Laboratoire LLF, Université de Paris, Paris, FR

Jackie Wan, BSc (hons), registered mental health nurse, UK

Dr. Karen Emmorey, Distinguished Professor, School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, San Diego State University, USA

Dr. Octavian Robinson, Department of Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Holly Hassel, Department of English, North Dakota State University and Associate Chair, Conference on College Composition and Communication, USA

Katie Lee, MA Linguistics, Acquisitions Editor, Gallaudet University Press, USA

Anthony Coy-Gonzalez, elementary school of the Deaf, Ohio, USA

Lucas Hamilton, MA student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Amelia Dall, MA, Deaf archaeologist, USA

Dr. Julia Drouin, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, California State University Fullerton, USA

Danial A. Parvaz, Computational Linguist, Amazon

Dr. Robert Adam, Languages and Intercultural Communication, School of Social Sciences, Languages & Intercultural Studies, Heriot-Watt University, SCT

Michael Dunham, MA student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Blake Morris, ASL-English Interpreter, Red River College, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CA

Dr. Qi Cheng, Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, USA

Tayla Newman, MA student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Jami Fisher, Director of ASL/Deaf Studies, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Yeh Kim, MA student, Department of Linguistics and Department of Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Meredith Tamminga, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Phyllis Perrin Wilcox, Professor Emerita, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Dr. Zed Sehyr, Research Scientist, Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience, San Diego State University, USA

Lisa Stockleben, PhD student, University of Cologne, DE

Dr. Christopher A.N. Kurz, Department of Masters of Science in Secondary Education, Rochester Institute of Technology - National Technical Institute for the Deaf, USA

Mel Chua, Deaf community member and PhD candidate in Engineering Education, Purdue University, USA

Raphael Domingo, PhD student in Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA and Head of Deaf Heritage and Filipino Sign Language Studies, Center for Education Advancement of the Deaf, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Philippines

Elizabeth Doyle, Mechanical Engineer, Newton, MA, USA

Jacqueline Wunderlich, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, USA

Julie Donnelly, NIC ASL Interpreter, USA

Morgan Wall, Disabled Activist / Criminology Student University of Ottawa, CA

Wink, PhD candidate, Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Dr. Joanne Weber, Canada Research Council Chair in Deaf Education (Tier 2), University of Alberta, CA

Dr. Giordon Stark, Postdoctoral Scholar employee, Santa Cruz Institute of Particle Physics, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

Sherrie Beaver, Sessional Academic in School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University - Melbourne, AUS

Dr. Amie O'Shea, Lecturer, Disability and Inclusion in School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University - Melbourne Australia.

Dr. Jill P. Morford, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Dr. Jessica L. Ulmer, Instructional Systems Designer, SAIC
Dr. Tiffany L. Panko, NTID Center on Culture and Language, USA

Noella A. Kolash, PhD candidate, Department of Computing and Information Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA

Amy D. Jarrett, member of Signing Deaf Community, Instructor of ASL and of the Deaf, USA

Cassidy Flagg, MA student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

David Peter, Staff Engineer at Mailchimp, USA

Amber J. Martin, Ph.D. Department of Psychology, Hunter College- City University of New York, USA

Dr. Caitrin Lynch, Professor of Anthropology, Olin College of Engineering, Needham, Massachusetts, USA

Phoebe Tay, PhD Student (IGP-Global Asia), School of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, Nanyang Technological University, SG

Wendy Jehlen, ASL/English Interpreter, Nationally-certified, Boston, USA

Dr. Joshua D. Butler, Postdoctoral Associate, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Courtney C. Kellogg, PhD Candidate, Pathology, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA

Dr. Lorne Farovitch, Epidemiologist, New York, NY, USA

Cat H.-M. FUNG, Sign Interpreter and Lecturer, Hong Kong

Nix Sang Siew Hoon, Singapore Sign Language (SgSL)/English Interpreter, Accessibility Specialist, Founder and Director, Equal Dreams, SG

Yeo Wei Yong, Senior Manager (Communication Access), Deaf Access Services, The Singapore Association for the Deaf, SG

Azzam Akbar, Singapore Sign Language (SgSL)/English Interpreter, The Singapore Association for the Deaf, SG

Jessica Mak, Deaf Malaysian Sign Language & Singapore Sign Language & Deaf Interpreter; President, Malaysian Sign Language & Deaf Studies Association, SG, MY

Lisa Loh, member of Singapore's Deaf community, SG

Low Jarn May, M.A., CA, FCCA, Assistant Director of National Council of Social Service, member of Singapore Deaf Community, SG

Martin A. Watkins, PhD student, Educational Linguistics, University of New Mexico, USA

Yi Hin Chan, PhD candidate, Interpretation and Translation, Gallaudet University, USA
Bethany Yance, Graduate Assistant, Gallaudet University, USA

Lisa Swanson, MA, NCC, LPCC, member of the Deaf Community and Therapist for the deaf and ASL community, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Linda J. Carroll, C.D.I., New Mexico, USA

Tupper A. Dunbar, C.S.C., New Mexico, USA

Dr. Michele Friedner, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago, USA

Dr. Lynn Hou, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Dr. Adam Stone, Data Scientist, London, UK

Kaitlyn Sheapp, MS, Audiology Resident, USA

Dr. Shazia Siddiqi, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Rochester Medical Center, USA

Mary Grace Hamme, Speech-Language Pathologist, Massachusetts, USA

Paige Watson, member of the signing Deaf community, MLIS graduate, University of Maryland, USA

Dr. Gaurav Mathur, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Nic Willow, PhD Student, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University, USA

Hannah Lutzenberger, PhD Student at Center of Language Studies at Radboud University & International Max Planck Research School, NL

Dr. Emily Shaw, Department of Interpretation and Translation, Gallaudet University, USA

Martine Monksfield, Deaf Teacher of the Deaf, President Elect British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Steph Halder, Teacher of the Deaf, President, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Paul Simpson, National Executive Officer, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Teresa Quail, National Executive Officer, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Alison Weaver, Teacher of the Deaf and Treasurer, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Sue Denny, Teacher of the Deaf, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Stuart Whyte, Teacher of the Deaf, Educational Audiologist, Consultant, British Association of the Deaf (BATOD), UK

Marah Jaraisy, graduate student of Linguistics, Department of English at the division of English Linguistics, Bar Ilan University, IL

Dr. Marc Schulder, computational linguist, Institute of German Sign Language and Communication of the Deaf, Universität Hamburg, DE

Dr. Fiona Kyle, Lecturer & researcher in developmental psychology, DCAL (Deafness Cognition & Language Research Centre), University College London, UK

Victoria Nelson, Therapist & Founder of UK specialist counselling/psychotherapy practice, UK

Dr. Naomi Casselli, Department of Language and Literacy Education, Boston University, USA

ⁱ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-15-8391-9_14

ⁱⁱ https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/_/13600940

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41928-020-0451-7?proof=t>

^{iv} <https://theprint.in/opinion/indian-sign-language-should-be-declared-official-language-but-only-taught-by-deaf-trainers/432627/>

^v <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/11/why-sign-language-gloves-dont-help-deaf-people/545441/>

^{vi} <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/sign-language-translators-are-cool-but-are-they-useful-180971535/>

^{vii} <http://faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/SignAloudOpenLetter.pdf>

^{viii} <https://slls.eu/slls-ethics-statement/>

^{ix} <https://dl.acm.org/journal/taccess>

^x <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3308561.3353774>

^{xi} <https://www.crest-network.com>

^{xii} <http://cslds.org/asiansignbank/>

^{xiii} <https://aslsignbank.haskins.yale.edu>

^{xiv} <https://www.auslan.org.au>

^{xv} <https://bslcorpusproject.org>

^{xvi} <https://bslsignbank.ucl.ac.uk>

^{xvii} <http://tegnsprog.dk>

^{xviii} https://www.sign-lang.uni-hamburg.de/meinedgs/ling/start_en.html

^{xix} <https://signbank.csc.fi>

^{xx} <https://signbank.libras.ufsc.br>

^{xxi} <https://www.ru.nl/corpusngtuk/>

^{xxii} <https://signbank.science.ru.nl>

^{xxiii} <http://rsl.nstu.ru/site/index/language/en>

^{xxiv} <https://web.archive.org/web/20141020001726/http://www.sadeaf.org.sg/about-sgsl.htm>