

SORD

Social Research with Deaf People Newsletter

Issue 4

September 2010

Inside this issue:

ICED Conference	2
Deaf with Dementia Project	3
Mental Well-being Outcomes for Deaf Young People - A New Study	4 & 5
BSL Bible Translation Project	6
Recent Presentations & Publications	7
Meet the Team	8

News in Brief...

This edition of our newsletter has a rather international flavour. Several of our team members have recently given papers or delivered training outside the UK. See pages 2, 6 & 7 for details.

We welcome a new team member; Emma Ferguson-Coleman (see page 3).



Participants are being sought for a new study of mental well-being outcomes for Deaf young people. Pages 4&5.

* New Date for Conference *

Please note that a new date has been set for our launch conference. It will now be held on **March 18th/19th, 2011**. Watch out for our special mailing or keep an eye on our website for all the details...

Find us at...

<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/research/researchgroups/socialwork/sord>

Deaf Parenting UK

Professor Alys Young gave an address at the 2010 Conference of Deaf Parenting UK, held in London on July 7th.



The conference theme was: 'Are we Equal? Accessing Health, Social Services and our Children's Education'.

Alys addressed the question 'Do social care services work for Deaf parents?'

ICED Conference

Three SORD members, Alys Young, Hilary Sutherland and Katie Rogers, attended the 21st International Congress for Deaf Education (ICED) in Vancouver, Canada, last July. They all gave presentations; Alys was one of the keynote speakers and delivered a talk about early intervention with deaf children and their families, Katie talked about her current project - a follow-up study of mental well-being outcomes for deaf young people and Hilary talked about her doctoral project on sign bilingualism through the eyes of deaf children.



At this ICED conference, a message was delivered which expressed regret about the resolution made at the infamous 2nd Congress held in Milan in 1880 to ban sign language from educational programmes for the deaf and the effects and outcomes that this decision has had on deaf people throughout the world. Now, over 130 years later, ICED have acknowledged the detrimental effects of that Congress and have rejected all the resolutions that were made at that time.

The message, which took the form of a statement entitled “A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration”, was warmly received and so far over 700 people have signed a book pledging their support. The book of signatures will continue to be circulated and will be sent to the World Federation of the Deaf Congress in Durban, South Africa in 2011, with the intention of obtaining more signatures. It is intended that the book of signatures will be presented at the next ICED Congress in Greece in 2015.

More information on the press release by the ICED regarding the 1880 Milan Congress is available on <http://iced2010.com/pdf/press%20release.pdf>

Deaf with Dementia Project

**Alzheimer's
Society**

Leading the
fight against
dementia

This exciting, innovative study, funded by Alzheimer's Society, will explore the early identification of dementia amongst Deaf people who use BSL and work toward developing effective information and care which meets their unique needs.

Partnership with DCAL – Study 1

The first step in developing assessments for dementia is to find out about normally aging Deaf people. We will be attending an annual 1-week holiday for over 700 Deaf people aged 50-95 (organised by the Deaf Darby and Joan club) and providing informal information about healthy living while at the same time recruiting and testing participants using specially designed assessments.

Study 2

We will identify 10 Deaf people with early-stage dementia and their carers and support them to tell us their stories about their diagnosis and the impact this has had on their lives. This will involve meeting them several times and the interviews will be videoed.

Study 3

We will work alongside Deaf clubs and organisations with whom we already have links to identify their members' existing understanding of dementia and the information, materials and care pathways known to them. This will happen through discussion groups conducted in BSL. This will be done in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society.

Emma Ferguson-Coleman
Research Assistant
School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work
Room 4.313
Jean McFarlane Building
University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

dwd@manchester.ac.uk

07500 126219 text message only



Emma Ferguson-Coleman

Mental Well-Being Outcomes for Deaf Young People

What do we know about mental health difficulties in deaf children and how difficulties could influence mental well-being as deaf children grow up? What are the important factors in childhood that influence well-being over time? How do deaf people's views of their own life events and experiences influence their understanding of well-being? It is hoped that following up on a group of deaf people who were originally studied as children in 1988 will help us to understand these important questions.

In the original 1988 study, Peter Hindley and his fellow researchers attempted to find out how likely it was for deaf young people to have mental health difficulties. Those deaf young people who took part in Hindley's original study were aged between 11 and 16 years old at the time. Hindley's research showed that a higher proportion of young deaf people were experiencing mental health difficulties, in comparison with hearing young people.

Participants needed for study one

I am looking for volunteers to take part in my study.

I need deaf adults aged 18 years old or above.

The study involves looking at whether the British Sign Language version and the English version of a well-being assessment tool will be useful for a future study. The study involves deaf people completing the questionnaire about well-being online. The questionnaire is available both in BSL and English. You will be asked to choose either the BSL or the English version and fill it in. The questionnaire will take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Once you have completed the questionnaire, you will be paid for your time.

If you would like to volunteer or would like to know more about this, please contact Katie Rogers (see page 5 for contact details).

Information about this study is available in both BSL and English. The BSL version will be available on SORD website soon.



***National Institute for
Health Research***

Those deaf young people studied in 1988 will now be between 32 and 39 years old. This new study will try to trace those people and find out what their well-being is like now and what has happened to them over the past 22 years. Before finding out what their mental well-being is like now, it is important to ensure that the well-being assessment we will create in British Sign Language is suitable for use with a deaf population. After we are sure that we can be confident that the well-being assessment is appropriate, those deaf people who were in the 1988 study will be contacted again and their current well-being status will be assessed, and they will be asked for their perspective on what has happened to them during the past 22 years and how they consider their current well-being to be.

If you are aged between 32 and 39 years old and attended school in London area, read on!

I am looking for deaf people who were involved in a study that was carried out in 1988 by Peter Hindley and others to take part in my study. Those deaf people would now be between 32 and 39 years old. They would also have attended one of the schools in London listed below:

- Haverstock School
- Sedgehill School
- St. Paul's School
- Oak Lodge School

If you fit the above, it is likely that you were involved in Hindley's study 22 years ago. The reason that I would like to get in touch with you is because I would like to know your current mental well-being and find out what has happened to you in the last 22 years. More information about my study is explained in the information sheet, which is available in written English and in British Sign Language. When you have finished taking part in this study, if you would like to talk to someone about issues it has raised for you I can give you a list of contacts where you can go for support. If you would like to take part or would like to know more about this study, please contact Katie Rogers (see contact details below).

If you would like more information about this study, you can contact Katie Rogers, by email at: Katherine.rogers@manchester.ac.uk or by post at: Social Research with Deaf People, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, The University of Manchester, 4.313 University Place, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. You could also text Katie on 07856 696533 or call her on 0161 306 0260 (minicom).



This project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research and is part of Katie's doctoral research fellowship, which is being supervised by Professor Alys Young and Professor Karina Lovell.

Project Close-up: BSL Bible Translation Project

In 2006, a new project was launched here in the UK with the goal of translating the whole Christian Bible into British Sign Language. Teams of Deaf people, experienced translators and Bible scholars have been working together to create a signed digital version of the Gospel of Mark. Instead of Deaf people accessing the Bible through mediated forms (English, sign language interpreters and so on), they will soon have direct access via their first language, BSL. The project website can be found at www.bslbible.org.uk

In collaboration with the universities of Manchester & Chester, the BSL Bible Translation Project successfully bid for funding for a researcher under the AHRC scheme 'Religion & Society'. Tracey Raistrick was appointed in 2007 and has been working half-time with the project and studying half-time towards a Doctorate in Professional Studies in Practical Theology'.

The BSL Bible Translation Project team was recently asked to visit the Netherlands by the NGT Bijbel task group who are exploring how they might set up their own project to translate the Bible into Dutch Sign Language. Tracey and another member of the Bible project team helped to lead their training weekend which was held near Bant, from the 25th to 27th of June, 2010. They received a very warm welcome.



Tracey & colleague leading one of the training sessions

They gave presentations about the structure of the BSL Bible Translation Project, the theory underpinning their translation process and about their practical experiences of translating, filming, fundraising and so on.

The delegates had the opportunity to try out some translation exercises in small groups, film some clips and reflect on their efforts. A number of people commented on how helpful they felt the weekend had been.

Over the coming months Tracey will be working with the BSL Bible Translation Project team to create a detailed record of the translation process, to evaluate their translation experience thus far, and to facilitate their reflections and recommendations for future planning as they seek to take this innovative project forward.

Tracey Raistrick
tracey.raistrick@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk
 Collaborative Doctoral Award, AHRC



Arts & Humanities
 Research Council

Recent Presentations by members of SORD:

Ferguson-Coleman, E. (2010) 'Deaf with Dementia Project'. Alzheimer's Society Research Conference, Warwick, UK, September 2010.

Hunt, R. (2010) "Deaf Children and Social Care" Deaf Awareness Week Open Day, Bolton College, 6 May 2010

Hunt, R. (2010) "Integrated Services and Deaf Children" Midlands Region Association of the Deaf, Walsall, 16 June 2010

Hunt, R. (2010). "Is Social Care Failing Deaf Children?" Launch Event National Deaf CAMHS Newcastle Outreach, Newcastle, 22 September 2010.

Hunt, R. & Gale, B. (2010) "Social Work Provision for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children and Young People and NDCS Policy" Heads of Sensory Support services (Education) Annual Conference, University of Birmingham, 18 June 2010

Raistrick, T. (2010). "The BSL Bible Translation Project", Signs of God Summer School, Northampton, UK, August 2010

Raistrick, T. (2010). "The BSL Bible Translation Project; Theory into Practice", NGT Bible Training, Bant, Netherlands, June 2010

Rogers, K. (2010) "The Mental Well-being of Deaf Young People", ICED, Vancouver, July 2010

Sutherland, H. (2010). "Sign Bilingualism Through the eyes of a child", ICED, Vancouver, July 2010.

Young, A. (2010). "Early Intervention with deaf children and their families: 'why I've sometimes believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!'" Keynote presentation, ICED, Vancouver, July 2010

Young, A. (2010). "Walk this way". Keynote presentation, Social Services Research Group Annual Conference, April 2010

Recent Publications by members of SORD:

Parker, J., Young, A.M., Rogers, K. (2010). My mum's story: a Deaf daughter discusses her Deaf mother's experience of dementia. *Dementia*, 9(1), 1- 16 doi: 10.1177/1471301209353987

Young, A.M., Gascon-Ramos, M., Campbell, M. Bamford, J. (2009) The Design and Validation of a Parent-Report Questionnaire for Assessing the Characteristics and Quality of Early Intervention Over Time. *The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*. doi: 10.1093/deafed/enp016

Belk, R. (2010) 'Exploring Genetics', British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Magazine, September 2010.

Hunt, R. (2010) ' Meeting Social Care Needs', British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Magazine, September 2010.

Working with the Deaf Community

Members of the SORD Research team take on a number of roles as expert consultants, contributing to policy and practice initiatives and to the Deaf community.

Alys Young is an ambassador for Deaf Parenting UK and is a trustee of Manchester Deaf Centre. She is a member of the NSPCC/NDCS Safeguarding Deaf Children executive group. She is an associate editor of the Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. Alys was recently made a fellow of the National School for Social Care Research.

Emma Ferguson – Coleman is currently a trustee of British Society for Mental Health and Deafness. In previous years, she was the Secretary for the committee of the Federation of Deaf People, campaigning for the recognition of BSL as a community language.

Hilary Sutherland is involved with several professional organisations providing expert advice. She has collaborated with the Royal Association for Deaf People and NDCS and sits on the Children's Hearing Services Working Group.

Katie Rogers has always been involved with the Deaf community. Until recently, she was secretary of the North West Deaf Association. She is now part of Deaf Academics UK.

Rachel Belk has a background as a genetic counsellor, specialising in deafness. She is part of the Parent Information Group convened by the NDCS. She was involved, with colleagues, in providing background genetics information in order to clarify the implications of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 2008 and enable a more equitable debate.

Ros Hunt is a trustee of the BSL Bible Translation Project. She is a member of the NDCS specialist social workers with deaf children and families group.

Rosie Oram is a life member of the BDA and is involved with the North West Deaf Association (NWDA). In the past, she has been involved with the National Deaf Youth Council (BDA) and has been a committee member of Manchester Deaf Women Sports.

Tracey Raistrick is a member of the Ministry Development Team for Christian Deaf Ministry in Yorkshire and the Dales. She is currently working with the BSL Bible Translation Project on their translation of The Gospel of Mark.

If you have any comments or questions about the newsletter, or have an article for the next edition, please contact:

sord@manchester.ac.uk

Social Research with Deaf People,
School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work,
The University of Manchester,
4.313 University Place, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.