

Language policy and practices in the Global North and South: Challenges, opportunities and future directions

Date 27/10/2021

Time: 13:00 – 14:30 CET

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Empowering deaf signers from the Global South*:

Using the capabilities approach as an additional framework to assess agency and wellbeing

Abstract: The wider study surveys deaf participants within a wider Peer-to-Peer Deaf Multiliteracies project (P2PDM) which took place across India, Uganda and Ghana to raise educational outcomes. This paper focuses on the capabilities realisation of deaf research assistants and peer tutors recruited within the project; and of deaf learners of English, all solely within the Indian context. This paper explores core human capabilities of deaf participants, alongside structural and socio-cultural factors which can inhibit their realisation. Links are drawn between participants' capability sets, conversion factors which enable or prevent the capability from being achieved, and capability achievement. Within India itself, data was elicited from staff and learners through six mapping activities and four focus groups across the project sites of Odisha, Indore and New Delhi. The Indian sample involved 29 participants. Participants demonstrated confidence with skills related to data collection, data dissemination, presentation at conferences and organisation of conferences with deaf participants in other neighbouring countries. Peer tutors commented on their skills with utilising English and teaching learners.

* Please note that there will be a **BSL interpreter** available for this lecture.



Eilidh Rose McEwan earned her Ph.D. (Thesis title: The capabilities of deaf people in development projects in the Global South) from the International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies at the University of Central Lancashire in May 2021. Her research focuses on deaf education in development projects within global South contexts. To date her research has included India, Uganda and Ghana, with a focus on adult learners of English in bilingual settings and the skills development of deaf project staff as research assistants and peer tutors, and of deaf learners of English.

Registration link: <https://universiteitleiden.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Atf-CrrDIpHtTalMQ7CV6Kbm9DRFJtOmPh>

(Please remember that a **valid ZOOM account will be required** for registration)



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