

Professional Mobility



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Publications on International Sign:

- Forthcoming: *Regimenting International Sign*. *Multilingual Matters*.
- Forthcoming: "International Sign". *Annual Review of Linguistics*.
- "International Sign and American Sign Language as different types of global deaf lingua francas". *Sign Language Studies* 21 (4).
- "The tipping point: On the use of signs from American Sign Language in International Sign". *Language & Communication* 75.

Mobility of deaf professionals

Brief or extended periods

Knowledge exchange, competition, performance, skills development

In events, workplaces, educational centers

This study focused on **language** in professional mobility, especially **International Sign (IS)**

STRATEGIES:
How do people do IS?

DISCOURSES:
What do people say about IS?

EXPERIENCES:
What does IS mean for them?

MULTISITED RESEARCH

SIGN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE IN BRAZIL (SIGN8)

BIBLE TRANSLATION CENTRE IN KENYA (DOOR International)

FRONTRUNNERS IN DENMARK, WINTER DEAFLYMPICS IN ITALY, WFD, WASLI & CLIN D'OEIL IN FRANCE

Semiotic repertoire: resources used in International Sign

Resources include: mouthings, facial expressions, lexicon of sign languages, constructed action, ASL, IS, pointing, fingerspelling, writing, typing, pictures, and calibrating.

Non-conventionalised IS (aka *cross-signing*)
Flexibly uses various communication methods, including iconic structures and signs from different sign languages

Conventionalised IS: (aka *International Sign Language*)
Involves more widely accepted signs and conventionalised structures

"Your sign becomes my sign, and this is IS"

(Juliette, Ile de Réunion/France)

Participants' metaphors to describe IS

Crossroads
Dial
Salad
Toolbox
Backpack

(= IS as meeting in the middle)
(= IS as process of "calibration")
(= IS as mix of signs)
(= IS as set of communication tools)
(= IS is based on a collection of signs that were picked up abroad)

TIPPING POINT

IS (International Sign) and ASL (American Sign Language) levels are shown relative to a tipping point.

"IS with ASL flavour"
"ASL-IS"
"bad ASL"
"slow ASL"
"European ASL"
"ASL-ish"
"contact ASL"

IS = contact language subject to language contact with American Sign Language (ASL)

Widespread linguistic prescriptivism aims to restrict use of ASL in IS

Research participants about privilege:

"IS is..."

"... easier to learn when you are from Europe"
"... easier when knowing ASL"
"... harder when first learning ASL"
"... easier for white able-bodied people"
"... easier when knowing English"

This IS

An ethnographic film series on International Sign by Annelies Kusters & Jeroen Ripkaert

Creation of six ethnographic films on International Sign:

dissemination, reflection, provocation, education

episode one: International Sign unpacked

Location: Frontrunners program, Denmark

What is International Sign and how does it evolve within a diverse group of deaf students from different countries?

episode two: Is this International Sign?

Location: Door International, Kenya

Can the combination of African sign languages, American Sign Language, and Indian Sign Language be classified as IS?

episode three: International Sign crash course

Location: SIGN8 conference, Brazil

Can International Sign (IS) be learned quickly through courses, interactions, and presentations, enabling people to acquire it during an event?

episode four: Is IS more visual?

Location: Clin d'Oeil festival, France

Is IS the most visually expressive signing, compared to national sign languages, physical theatre, gestures, and visual vernacular (VV)?

episode five: One size fits all?

Locations: WFD and WASLI conferences, Paris

Can IS truly be a one-size-fits-all solution, creating an ideal conference language where diverse national sign languages and interpreters coexist?

episode six: Easy come, easy go?

Location: Winter Deaflympics, Italy

Does the increasing presence of hearing individuals and non-signers in deaf spaces hint at the future of International Sign?

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