

Deaf Mobility Studies: Networks

CLOSING CONFERENCE DAY 1 - 2ND JUNE 2023



WELCOME!
this is a BIG day...
I've been managing this project for 6 years
our hope is to push through a new frontier for Deaf Mobility Studies...

it's about...
Celebrate DIVERSE worlds...
encourage notions of seeking unity...

We don't want to ignore the inequalities but instead set them for a different lens

Cosmopolitanism
how deaf experience the international landscape...
our starting question...
"A citizen of the world: how far can we take that idea?"
(Susan Appiah)

DEAF SIBS
the idea that deaf people can and do connect across national and linguistic borders

Aim of MobileDeaf: interrogate deaf cosmopolitanism by studying a spectrum of mobilities and immobilities

DEAF LED PROJECT
felt important to us that it was a

overarching questions
1. RESEARCH HOW?
2. COMMUNICATION HOW?

WHERE: Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya
WHO: Refugee mostly from Sudan and Somalia, MPLE working in the camp
WHAT: Refugee mostly from Sudan and Somalia, MPLE working in the camp

WHERE: LONDON
WHO: Migrants for work (from menial) for marriage (often women)
WHAT: Social gaps, language learning, learning to banter to social and economic integration

WHERE: Berlin, Tokyo, Korea
WHO: Tourists (backpackers, volunteers, honeymooners...) and their guides
WHAT: deaf assistance, deaf tourism circuit, tourist gaze

WHERE: Multisited
WHO: Deaf professionals and their academic, organisational, employment, and other contexts
WHAT: International communication through collaborative multiple languages, mediated, transnational space

In all of these we used ETHNOGRAPHY...
what people say they do, what they actually do...
1. Research question? 2. Observe 3. Patterns

I was involved as the camera person...
developed this new style Deaf-led Deaf-perspective we had a strong Deaf-gaze and wanted to explore that led by what we saw... not scripted...
JORN RUCKERT

Informed consent - very important
Participate in questions
Interviews
Linking patterns with theory

... AND FILMMAKING
important to work in collaboration... understand everyone's boundaries... build rapport...

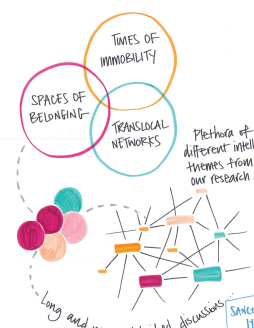


MOBILITY = MOVEMENT WITH MEANING
Research about the HUMAN, and the HUMAN THAT MOVES
EVERYTHING IS MOVING... AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS... EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED... WE TAKE THE ENVIRONMENT... WE ARE THE PLANET... WE ARE THE PLANET...
Science is finally catching up with these concepts, that are at their core - long held INDIGENOUS WISDOMS
(no longer just studying the 'dead' immigrant) recognizing the importance and complexity of mobility
We can no longer be separated from the things around us

Studying mobility from a multi-scalar perspective
transnational frameworks
why are we so classed with national context?
how do we change our research to...
I started my research in 1980-1982 when transnational deaf conferences started... I looked at...
Deaf clubs
Influenced other deaf clubs to open in other countries

Larger cultural discourse flow through Localities
each country had their own Deaf Newspaper
Berlin 1975 - First International Deaf Conference
Only privileged could afford to go
research from 'high contexts' often through male gaze
JOSEPH MURRAY

History of international deaf mobilities
deaf people would often travel to access work
this mobility gave a sense of the other lives
wanted as many deaf as they could in face of assimilation
deaf people have always been active, transnational and mobile for a long time almost intrinsic to deaf people
JORN RUCKERT



Nodes are DESTINATIONS created by deaf people
Institutions Individuals Events
NetworkING is about keeping and building connections
Events as NODES
Subsequent & subsequent events in these nodes
Precariousness
Shifting down
Mobility issues

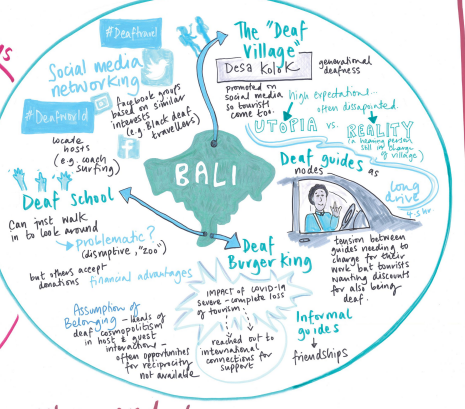
MOBILITY ON A SPECTRUM / CONTINUUM... NOT SEPARATE
IMMOBILITY
IMMOBILITY & TEMPORALITY
Not knowing what the future will hold
uncertainty & unpredictability
Productive meaning, learning, care giving, entrepreneurship, connections
TEMPORALITY IN RESEARCH
Boredom & frustration
Slow scholarship route led to deeper and longer-term insights
KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMPS - 1, 2 & 3
200,000 people in the camps
Profound displacement
Education & schooling
Lack of mobility in/out of the camps
Women heart broken
deaf people in the camps
return to their country and come back again
deaf schooling
deaf vocational training
BODIMOND IMPACT
Recognising our physical & mental - influence of research - cancer, depression, maternity, disabilities = crap future.

There are MANY LIMITATIONS to accessing higher education...
HEARING PEOPLE'S ABILITY HAS BOUND AND LIMED...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT
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Intersectionality studies often neglect international mobility in their focus
Belonging
Belonging relates to feeling at home within a group/place/space
Belonging is broader than "deaf identity" (not just about who I am)
Belonging is about "deaf community" (not centralising "deaf")
Analysing Belonging
Identification: narrative of belonging and membership
Social location: allows axes of difference (gender, class, etc.)
Politics of belonging: People seek and police group boundaries
While deaf, lesbian, cross gender, and other identities are explored...
black deaf - what does that mean? (Gibson & Samra-Jeanes)
Politics of belonging: People seek and police group boundaries
- e.g. what are you doing? do you fit in? etc. etc?

ROSE NYABWOKA
LINA THOU
Mobility of deaf professionals and researchers
NETWORKING IS KEY...
GEO-POLITICAL ISSUES
LANGUAGE BARRIERS
OTHER ISSUES
ABILITYISM
LACK OF FUNDING
RACISM
LANGUAGE TRANSLATION
EMOTIONAL, FINANCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES
SPONSORSHIP
ASKING FOR SUPPORT
JOBS
INFO SITE KING
ACTIVORK BY WOVENink.co.uk

DEAFBLIND & CRIP: Tactile - even in deafblind space, 1 pace barriers
Deafblind & Black
Kenya's experience leading to educate people on pro tactile signing - people see his voice first
POLITICS OF BELONGING IN SPORT
Deaflympics
Privileges non-signing hand-of hearing athletes (letter access to training)
Balancing inclusion and competitive
WHEELCHAIRS & MOBILITY
Scales of (in)accessibility and (in)accessibility
- e.g. deaf people in wheelchairs experience at the MPLE (congress) - wheelchair accessibility but (hidden) barriers in transportation, sound visual & accommodations.



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IT'S AMAZING - HERE VERY INSPIRING!!
I got the access to do my BA, and got my first job through my networks
It's interesting to notice who's on stage, and who's publishing!
MANY FACES
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