

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

*Sign language exposure for people with autism spectrum disorders:
research and experimentation review*

Friday, July 1, 2022, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
University of Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis,
Amphitheater of the Maison de la Recherche (MR002)

Hybrid

Please note: Mandatory registration for all participants with Christelle Gérard, who will provide the Zoom link to those who wish to follow the course remotely

Contact email for registration: christelle.gerard06@etud.univ-paris8.fr

The UMR 7023 SFL (Paris 8 and CNRS) and the Grhapes (INSHEA) offer a workshop on the related themes of French Sign Language (LSF) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), as part of an ongoing research on the gestural interactions, in an ecological context, of adults with ASD called "non-verbal" exposed to LSF.

Psychologists and/or psycholinguists specializing in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or in the use of sign language (SL) with people with ASD, as well as linguists specializing in SL linguistics, are welcomed to this workshop. We will discuss with the following results:

- the observation, during the last semester, of an LSF workshop for children with ASD set up at the Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal (CHI) Robert Ballanger by Dr. Cruveiller, child psychiatrist;
- the multidisciplinary analysis of video recordings of an LSF workshop involving a young adult with non-verbal autism; this workshop was led by Sandrine Hermann, deaf art therapist, and Anne Vanbrugge, instructor at INSHEA, and filmed between 2015 and 2021 by the filmmaker Safia Hadjahadjeba.

The objective of this half-day session is to discuss **the didactic and practical modalities and issues involved in setting up a 10-month LSF training, to be implemented in 2022-2023, for young adults with non-verbal ASD.**

LSF-English interpretation will be provided.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sandrine Burgat (Paris 8)
Christelle Gérard (Paris 8)
Brigitte Garcia (Paris 8)
Corinne Marius (Paris 8)
Karine Martel (INSHEA)
Sabine Zorn (INSHEA)

INVITED SPEAKERS

- **Aaron SHIELD**, PhD, Associate Professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Miami University (US). Dr. Shield is interested in how language develops in typical and atypical children, particularly deaf and hearing children who acquire sign language, deaf and hearing children with ASD, and children with infantile apraxia of speech. In particular, his research focuses on the social and cognitive skills required to access language and how deficits in these skills can impair language development. He also studies the effects of sign language exposure on children with ASD and children with apraxia of speech.
- **Anne VANBRUGGHE**, INSHEA (Suresnes, France), school teacher and trainer, responsible for the Deafness pôle and member of the ASD pôle. Anne Vanbrugghe also the general secretary of the LSF CAPES jury and is preparing a doctorate in language sciences at the SFL laboratory on the epistemological analysis of scientific discourse concerning access to reading and writing for young deaf people. For the past 20 years, she has been working with deaf and autistic students and adults in the context of research-action-training programs for future specialized teachers. She is the initiator of a research-action on the use of LSF by a young adult with non-verbal ASD.
- **Virginie CRUVEILLER**, PhD, child psychiatrist, day hospital of the Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal (CHI) Robert Ballanger - Unité d'Enseignement Externalisée (Aulnay-sous-Bois, France), ASD expert. Dr. Cruveiller has a strong field experience in the use of LSF with children with ASD: since 2019 she has implemented various LSF workshops for children with ASD set up at the CHI.
- **Christelle GÉRARD**, University of Paris 8 (Paris, France), LSF-French interpreter. Enrolled in a doctoral thesis at SFL on the following subject: "*Exploratory approach of gestural interactions, with their entourage, of adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) called "non-verbal" in an ecological context of exposure to French sign language (LSF)*", she is the founder of the association AntiSignes of which objective is to accompany deaf-autistic people and to make discover LSF to people with ASD.

PROGRAM

2pm - 3pm

Anne Vanbrugghe and Christelle Gérard

Observations and analysis of the socio-communicative and language skills of a young adult with a non-verbal autism spectrum disorder (ASD) exposed to French sign language (LSF)

Followed by 15 minutes of discussion

3:15pm - 4pm

Aaron Shield, PhD

A Look Back on a Decade of ASL Research in Deaf American Children with ASD

Followed by 15 minutes of discussion

4:15pm – 4:30pm

Break

4:30pm - 5:00pm

Dr. Virginie Cruveiller

*Use of sign language with non-verbal autistic children:
presentation of an experimentation in child psychiatry*

Followed by 15 minutes of discussion

5:15pm - 6:30pm

Round Table

Co-animated by Brigitte Garcia and Sabine Zorn

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

Dr. Virginie Cruveiller, CHI Robert Ballanger

Use of sign language with non-verbal autistic children: presentation of an experiment in child psychiatry

The day hospital "Les Trois jardins" has been using French sign language in therapeutic activities for 2 years in an innovative way. This experiment was the subject of a medical thesis. We propose to explain the reasons which led us to use sign language based on data from the literature, then to describe what we have put in place and to share the observations and reflections which result from it, in terms of clinical and therapeutic.

Aaron Shield, PhD, Miami University

A Look Back on a Decade of ASL Research in Deaf American Children with ASD

In this talk I will reflect on what we have learned from the first ten years of work on the linguistic and cognitive profile of deaf children with autism who use American Sign Language to communicate. This work has shed light on theoretical aspects of language acquisition, revealed new aspects of the cognitive profile of children with ASD, and suggested sign-specific markers of ASD that should be considered in the screening and diagnosis of deaf children with ASD.

Anne Vanbrugghe and Christelle Gérard, INSHEA and Université Paris 8

Observations and analysis of the socio-communicative and language skills of a young adult with a non-verbal autism spectrum disorder (ASD) exposed to French sign language (LSF)

We participated in the linguistic/didactic and psychopedagogical/psycho developmental reflections of a working group meeting on a monthly basis and involving researchers from the UMR 7023 SFL and the UR 7287 Grhapes, INSHEA. The work of this group consists in the analysis of a video corpus centered on a young adult with non-verbal ASD exposed to LSF. We will present our first conclusions concerning the potential contributions of LSF for people with ASD who are 'non-verbal' and exposed to this language.