

"The contacts disappeared"- Expressing Emotions of Deaf Students during Covid-19

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The corona pandemic has affected people with disabilities and mental illnesses throughout Austria. The project, which will be funded by the FWF over 3 years from 2021-2024 and implemented at the Center for Teacher Education at the University of Vienna in cooperation with Bertha von Suttner University, focuses on students with disabilities and mental illnesses, including Deaf people. The aim is to incorporate the perspectives and experiences of people with disabilities into the project in order to be strategically prepared for future crises. So far, data has been collected through interviews with students with disabilities, such as deafness and mental illness. The Constructivist Grounded Theory method was used as the research design for the analysis.

The preceding translation of the sign language interviews was particularly challenging, as the film recordings had to be translated into written language. As a participatory element, students were included and were thus able to contribute their opinions and feedback to the transcription. This methodological approach will be presented in the lecture.

This will be followed by a presentation of the results of the evaluation, with interview excerpts being shown and the resulting qualitative results being presented through a visual analysis. In the presentation of the results, the emotional expressions of the students interviewed during the coronavirus pandemic become clear. The visual-spatial modality shows a transparent, linguistically strong expression of the emotional state of the Deaf students. Various experiences and perspectives from research practice are incorporated, which are presented with the help of Constructivist Grounded Theory.