

Social Research with Deaf People



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2023

Summer Graduation 2023

SORD would like to offer its warmest congratulations to Dr Celia Hulme and Dr Jane Russell on their momentous graduation!

On Friday 14th July 2023, they proudly received their well-deserved Doctor of Philosophy degrees in the presence of their friends and family. Their dedication and hard work have truly paid off and we wish them both continued successes.



Dr Celia Hulme (left) and Dr Jane Russell (right)

Dr Russell said: 'I was awarded my PhD alongside Dr Celia Hulme, my colleague in SORD, this summer. My topic was how hearing parents think about good outcomes for their deaf child. Part of my thesis focused on my reflexive learning as a hearing mother raising a deaf child; a child who is now a young adult. Although I started my thesis with outcomes, this term is introduced to parents by professionals. Hearing parents however come to consider a deaf life trajectory and learn what I term Deaf-Child-Futures and Deaf-Child-Parenting-Practices.'

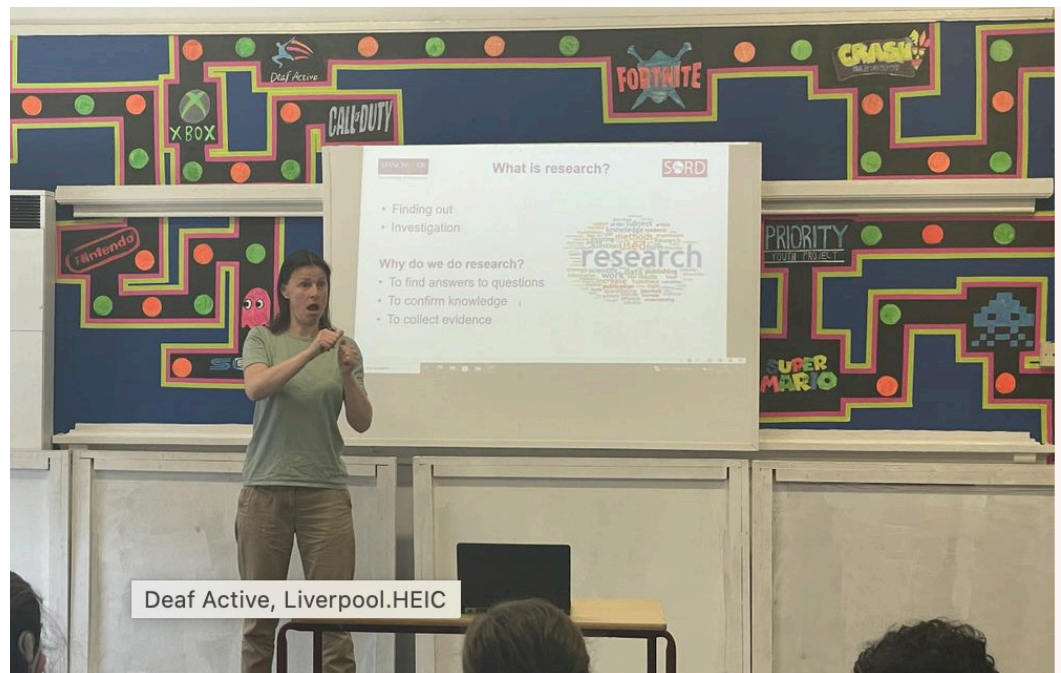
My thesis was traditional, so I am now preparing papers for publication and presentations to disseminate my work. I was pleased to accept an invitation from GPODHH (Global Coalition of parents with Deaf/HH Children) to give the GPODHH keynote presentation at the Family Centred Early Intervention (FCEI) conference in 2024 in Bad Ischl, Austria'

Congress information can be found here:
www.fcei.at/unit/fcei/congress

Inspiring Young Deaf People into Research (IYDPIR)



SORD received some funding from the University of Manchester Widening Participation programme to empower and inspire deaf young people into research. Research has shown that many deaf young people lack knowledge about higher education and are often told they can't dream big because of lack of qualifications. Celia, Emma and Katie from SORD organised an IYDPIR roadshow, visiting schools, Deaf clubs and Deaf organisations like Mary Hare School, Thomasson Memorial School, Deaf Active (employment project), Heathlands School and Manchester Deaf Centre from April 2023 and July 2023.



Throughout their journey, they engaged with 175 deaf young people, sharing their personal stories and acting as positive Deaf role models for the Deaf community. They showed deaf young people that it is possible to be ambitious and showed different paths to work and study. They also provided valuable insights to create a 'Deaf Empowerment toolkit' and how to embrace determination with being Deaf. The roadshow also emphasised the importance of research and sparked lively discussions on effective data collection methods. Looking ahead, SORD aims to continue this impactful project, reaching out to even more deaf young people in 2024.



GROW - Researcher Development Programme

Dr Celia Hulme was among the lucky 20 early career researchers chosen from over 100 applicants for the 2023 GROW Researcher Development programme. The six-month programme, started in June 2023, focused on her personal and professional growth.

The training covered impactful research, funding applications, engaging with patients and the public and exploring future mental health research. The GROW programme has arrived at the perfect moment in her research career. She now has a coach who guides her every month in enhancing her skills and performance.

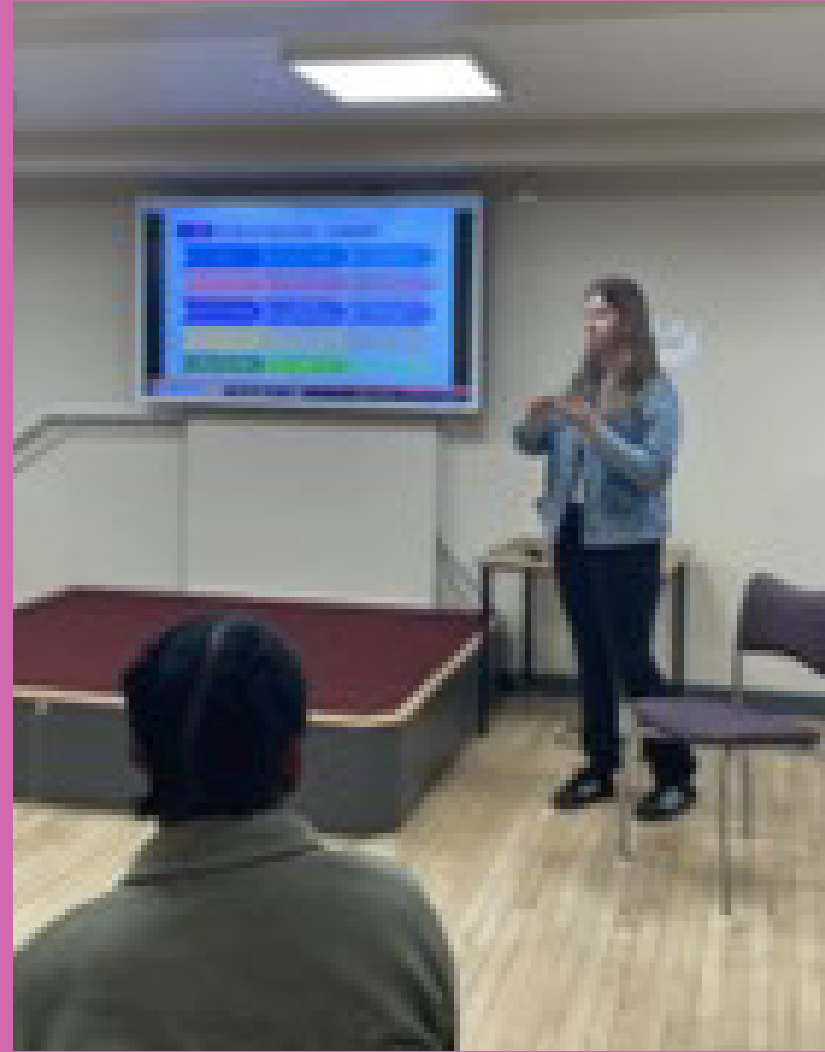
In addition to GROW, Celia participates in the University of Manchester's New Academics Programme, which is all about enhancing research and teaching practices.



2023 Summer Intern

For six weeks this summer, Beth King has been an intern with SORD. Beth says:

‘Working with this group of strong women has been motivating and inspiring. It’s been great meeting the team and learning more about their individual work, what their research found and the impact it had. They have each given me some valuable information and advice that I will remember in the future. I attended presentations with the team that were inspiring to watch, one being at the Manchester Deaf Centre for a group of young people. I was also able to join in on one of SORD’s reading groups and team meetings, it was interesting to observe everybody’s thoughts and ideas on how to improve their work.



Coming from a deaf family, I was already aware of some of the issues that deaf people may face, however working here has been very eye-opening as I’ve learned more about their daily challenges, e.g., dealing with dementia and social workers. Overall, this internship has helped me develop skills in teamwork, using new software, reflexivity, as well as learning more academic signs. I want to say a big thank you to everybody at SORD for welcoming me into their team this summer, it has been an amazing opportunity!’

Article: What have YOU done in the past few years?" Deaf BSL users' experiences of caring for people with dementia during COVID-19
 by Emma Ferguson-Coleman and Alys Young

This paper, published in *Quality of Ageing and Older Adults*, discusses the experiences of Deaf BSL users who were carers for their family member with dementia during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings included Deaf carers' lack of access to information and support in BSL, being very isolated from mainstream services and missing out on Deaf community opportunities. Healthcare professionals need to be much more aware about BSL as a language and ensure fully accessible communication provision for Deaf carers and their families.

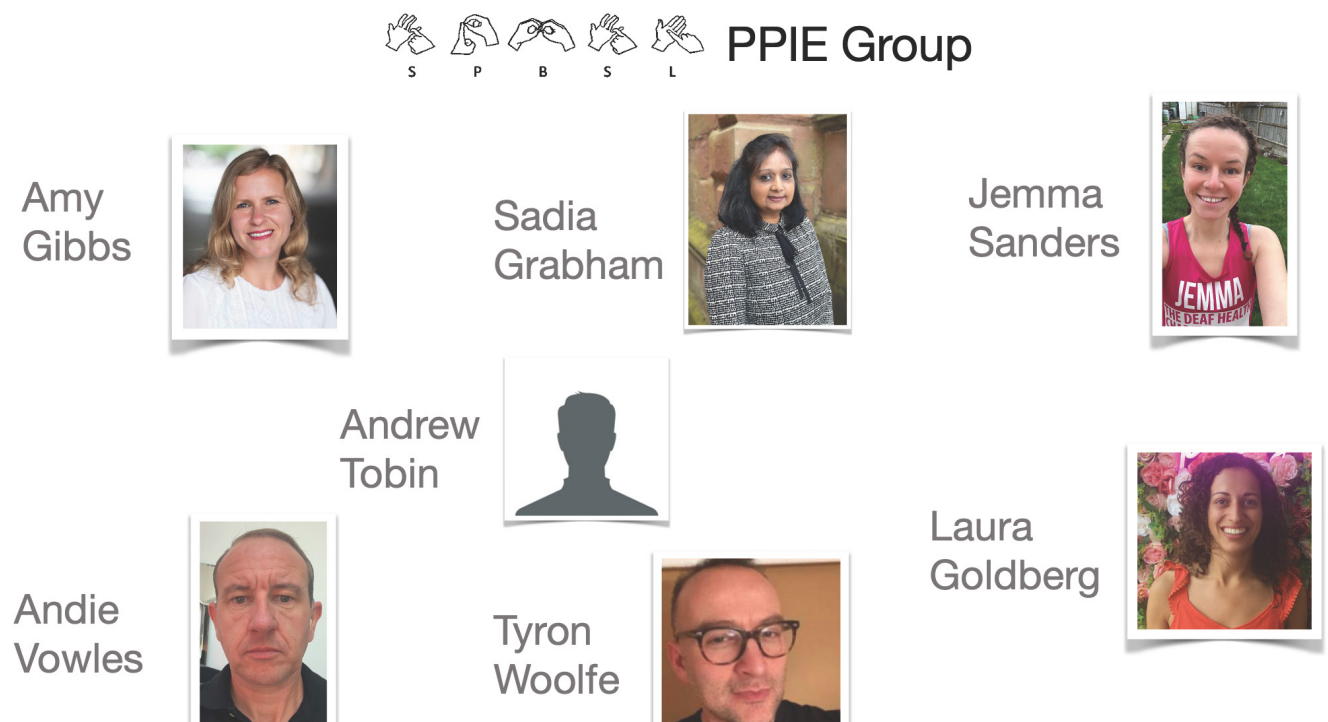


Emma Ferguson-Coleman attended the Alzheimer's Society Early Career Researchers Retreat in Newcastle in June 2023. There was a Soapbox Science event where researchers could talk about their work with the wider audience in an impactful way. Emma was awarded the Soapbox Science prize for her talk about Deaf carers with people with dementia and the lack of opportunities there are for accessing information and support in BSL.

Social Prescribing for Deaf BSL users (SPBSL) PPIE Group

Led by Dr Celia Hulme, the Social Prescribing for Culturally Deaf BSL users project aims to assess the effectiveness of social prescribing for Deaf signers. The project includes a Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Panel consisting of Deaf individuals: Amy Gibbs, Laura Goldberg, Sadia Grabham, Jemma Sanders, Andrew Tobin, Andie Vowles, and Tyron Woolfe.

The panel underwent training and will be contributing by advising on documents, participating in data collection, and sharing insights through conferences and workshops.



Article: Now you see them, now you don't: Professional recognition of specialist professionals working with Deaf British Sign Language parents in child safeguarding by Rosemary Oram, Alys Young and Pat Cartney (2023)

This article has recently been published online in the journal 'Qualitative Social Work' and relates to a group of specialist professionals working with Deaf BSL-using people, whom I interviewed. The data included their experiences, thoughts and views when working with Deaf parents going through the Child Protection process e.g. a parenting assessment. Also, the professionals shared examples of good working practice, gaps that they had identified in the process and how they would like to see those services develop in the future. The article is based on one of the key themes chosen from the data, 'Professional Recognition', which looks at how the specialist professionals working in this field are acknowledged and perceived.

Congratulations!

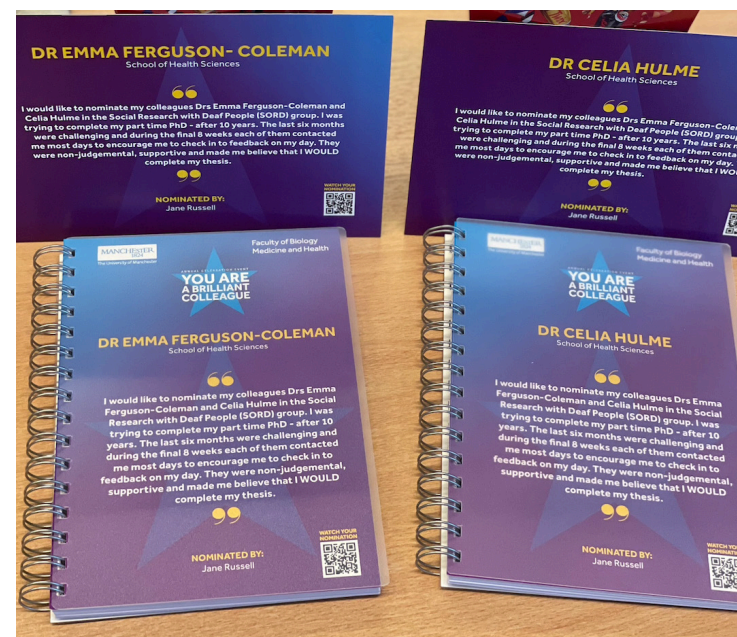
AdvanceHE

Dr Emma Ferguson-Coleman was awarded the Fellow of the Higher Academy (FHEA) by the University of Manchester in December 2023.

THE READY STUDY: FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

The Recording Emerging Adulthood in Deaf Youth (READY) study, funded by NDCS, came to an end in July 2023. Please see video for a BSL version of the project summary. Further information can be found here: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/thereadystudy/>

Dr Celia Hulme and Dr Emma Ferguson-Coleman were nominated by Dr Jane Russell for the University of Manchester for 'being a brilliant colleague'.



Jane's statement:

I would like to nominate my colleagues Drs Emma Ferguson-Coleman and Celia Hulme in the Social Research with Deaf People (SORD) group. I was trying to complete my part time PhD - after 10 years. The last six months were challenging and during the final 8 weeks each of them contacted me most days to encourage me to check in to feedback on my day. They were non-judgemental, supportive and made me believe that I WOULD complete my thesis.

Publications during 2023

"What have YOU done in the past few years?": Deaf BSL users' experiences caring for people with dementia during COVID-19. Ferguson-Coleman, E. & Young, A., 1 Dec 2023, In: *Quality in Ageing and Older Adults*.

Now you see them, now you don't: Professional recognition of specialist professionals working with Deaf British Sign Language parents in child safeguarding.

Oram, R., Young, A. & Cartney, P., 13 Jun 2023, (Accepted/In press) In: *Qualitative Social Work*.

Introducing the READY study: DHH young people's well-being and self-determination.

Young, A., Espinoza, F., Dodds, C., Squires, G., Rogers, K., Chilton, H. & O'Neill, R., 7 Mar 2023, In: *The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.

Deaf Identity in audiology services: exploring the significance and implications.

Hulme, C., 1 Sept 2023, In: *ENT & Audiology news*. 32, 4, p. 22-23

What is the efficacy and effectiveness of telemedicine intervention for deaf signing populations in comparison to face-to-face interventions? A systematic review.

Rogers, K., Lovell, K. & Young, A., 22 Jun 2023, In: *BMC Health Services Research*. 23, 1, 678.

Mental Health Professionals' (AMHPs) perspectives on interpreter mediated Mental Health Act assessments.

Young, A., Vicary, S., Tipton, R., Vicente, N. R., Napier, J., Hulme, C. & Espinoza, F., 7 Sept 2023, In: *The Journal of Social Work*.

Sign language communities, neighbourhoods, and dementia. Ferguson-Coleman, E. & Young, A., 17 Oct 2023, *Reconsidering Neighbourhoods and Living with Dementia: Spaces, Places, and People*. Keady, J. (ed.). Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press. p. 106-126 21 (Reconsidering Dementia Series).