Language policy and language ideologies in an international deaf organisation. (Ref. SoSS-2020-009)

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The overall goal of this study is to analyse how language ideologies are circulated within an international deaf organisation and impact the language policy and language practices of this organization, including language contact situations. The selection of the organisation in which to do the research will be agreed between the student, their supervisors, and the chosen organisation. Types of international deaf organisations or institutions include non-profit organisations, international deaf associations, intergovernmental organisations, and educational institutions. Formal and informal language policy and practices can pertain to languages/variants used in the context of meetings, day-to-day practice, dissemination materials, websites, apps, and reports. Given this range of contexts, the project thus involves a multimodal approach to language, regarding signed language (including forms of fingerspelling and mouthing), spoken language, written language, and may include processes of interpreting and translation. The aim is to study these ideologies and practices in top-down and bottom-up ways, on different levels in the organisational hierarchy. Researching organisational language ideologies includes a focus on processes of inclusion and exclusion, privilege and oppression via language practices.

Applicants for this project should have an academic background in the humanities, social sciences or languages, and should have experience with qualitative research methods.

For informal enquiries, please contact Dr Annelies Kusters (a.kusters@hw.ac.uk)

When submitting your application for this project area, please select the option ‘Languages, PhD’ from the drop-down list on the online application system.