Brainstorm session: The future of Deaf Academics conferences and other initiatives
Aim of this session

1. Historical background of Deaf Academics conferences.
2. Reflection about the current conference
3. Think about future conferences
4. What else can deaf academics do to stay connected?
Historical background

Recent history of Deaf Academics conferences

- Austin, Texas, USA • March 8-10, 2002
- Washington, DC, USA • February 19-21, 2004
- Stockholm, Sweden • August 10-12, 2006
- Dublin, Ireland • June 25-27, 2008
- Florianópolis, Brazil • November 21-24, 2010
- Lisbon, Portugal • July 18-20, 2013

Aim of Deaf Academics conferences?

Changes through time
This conference

We only accepted presentations that are **based on research**

Important for deaf academics to share experiences and experiential knowledge: **workshops**

Reflect on the academic contents, the programme, workshops

– Was this conference useful for deaf academics? Why?
– How was it different/similar from previous editions?
– What can be done better next time?
Future conferences

This conference:
– Participants with very different and diverging backgrounds
– Overwhelmed by number of registrations
– Waiting list only for deaf academics – why? Target group

Aim of future deaf academics conferences?
– Networking and exchange about issues in academic life? (not: creation of elite group, but: people with specific experiences/interests – compare with deaf sports/art/…)
– Importance of inspiring deaf students to do research
– Or open for anybody who is interested in results of research? Duty of deaf academics to share research results with deaf community?
Future: main target group?
- What is a “deaf academic”? Someone who once studied at a university? Someone who is currently studying/working at a university? Which level?
- What about deaf non-academics?
- What about hearing academics?
- What about non-signing (deaf/hearing) people?
- Who can present / attend? (for example: deaf academics present, wider audience attends?)
- Use of deaf interpreters when a presenter doesn’t know IS?
What else can we do to stay connected?

Already in use: Deaf Academics mailing list

Other ideas?

For examples:

– An academic blog with guest blogs/vlogs in IS/English?

– An official academic network (specific topic area such as ethnographies or a wider “deaf academics” network?)

– More extensive version of the workshops: boot camp or summer school?