The drive of Flemish deaf teachers to teach deaf children
Deaf teachers in history of deaf education?

- Deaf teachers (helped to) set up deaf schools.
- After Milan 1880, lots of deaf teachers were fired.
Deaf teachers in Flanders?

- Flanders has 7 deaf schools
- 4 of them have deaf teachers and/or deaf teacher assistants
- Predominantly oral schools, only 1 bilingual deaf school
- Norm: integration/inclusion
Research question

How do deaf teachers experience deaf education?

• Their own responsibility,
• position,
• teaching practices,
• contacts with colleagues, parents, pupils, principal, etc.
### Research methods

**3 active qualified teachers**
- Participant observation
- Study of one-week diaries
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews

**2 non-active qualified teachers**
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews
Intergenerational responsibility

The drive of deaf teachers

- Low status of sign language in deaf schools
- Low education level in deaf schools
- Personal life history: bad experiences regarding education
- History of deaf education
Intergenerational responsibility

Attempts to intergenerational rectification

- Change or defend school policy
- Improve status and use of sign language
- Defending, fighting for own position in school
- Acts of advocacy aimed at hearing staff
Intergenerational responsibility

Transmission of ideas of ‘how to be deaf’

Positive attitude about being deaf:
• Navigating and negotiating society as a deaf person
• Informing about deaf clubs, events and networks

Through narratives, own attitude and body language.
Intergenerational responsibility is the drive for deaf teachers to teach deaf children.
Deaf researcher: influence/role?

- Motivation of teachers to participate in research
- Connections
- Dissemination of results
Questions?

Thank you for your attention. Questions and feedback are welcome!

mariekekusters@gmail.com