***Commodification of the***

***Deaf Body and Deaf Signing***

This paper addresses how the nature of contact between deaf and hearing people variably affects economic and social resources, and language accommodations in different signing communities.  Not all signing communities recognize being deaf and/or using a deaf sign language as a commodity.  A Deaf heritage regime [[1]](https://mail.ucsd.edu/owa/14.3.224.2/scripts/premium/blank.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1%22%20%5Co%20%22) commodifies the deaf body and deaf language in some signing communities, while not in others. The points of un-accommodated contact, whether bodily and/or sensorily, lead eventually to marked ‘deaf’ and ‘deaf signing’ categories. Whether being deaf, and/or knowing a deaf sign language rises to the level of a commodity depends on the political economies of the signing communities.  Only when there is economic and/or political advantage does the deaf body and/or deaf signing become commodities.  This paper will use global data to demonstrate how commodification emerges in some signing communities and not others, and will focus on one particular community to demonstrate how changes in educational language policies gave rise to both economic and political capital in being authentically Deaf, and being able to sign the authentic deaf language.

[[1]](https://mail.ucsd.edu/owa/14.3.224.2/scripts/premium/blank.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1%22%20%5Co%20%22) cf. Bendix in Geismar 2015:72