

International conference
“The integration of social-haptic communication
in deafblind interpreting and educational settings”
Venice, 4-5 September 2023
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Aula Magna Silvio Trentin, Ca' Dolfin, Dorsoduro 3825/e - 30123 Venice
and on Zoom

Call for papers

Conference theme

The international conference “The integration of social-haptic communication in deafblind interpreting and educational settings” will take place at Ca' Foscari University of Venice on September 4th-5th 2023 in Aula Magna Silvio Trentin, Ca' Dolfin, Venice, and on Zoom. It is organized by the Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies of Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The Department participated with the Foundation Lega del Filo d'Oro Onlus in the Erasmus+ project “Social Haptic Signs for Deaf and Blind in Education”, which was financed by the European Commission. The project contributed to the development of social-haptic communication in Italy.

The conference aims at gathering international and national expertise around the integration of social-haptic communication in the practice of deafblind interpreting and in deafblind learning environments.

Deafblind interpreting is a complex task, requiring guide-interpreters to have linguistic skills, guiding skills, and descriptive skills. Social-haptic communication (SHC) is a method that perfectly suits the need to briefly convey relevant contextual information to the deafblind without interrupting the ongoing action/translation. SHC is also a great resource in educational contexts, enabling the transfer of both social and environmental information to deafblind learners.

While SHC is extensively used in Scandinavian countries, Italy is just now witnessing the emergence of such a communication method. Given the upcoming dramatic change in the training of sign language interpreters and guide-interpreters in Italy, it is crucial to gather international expertise around the integration of SHC in the practice of deafblind interpreting and education.

Official languages of the conference: English and Italian Sign Language.

Invited speakers

Sigrid Berge, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Riitta Lahtinen, University of Helsinki

Johanna Mesch, Stockholm University
Russ Palmer, University of Helsinki
Eli Raanes, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Organization

Anna Cardinaletti, Lara Mantovan, Pietro Rigo, Laura Volpato.

Abstract submission

We invite on stage presentations (30-minute presentations, followed by 15-minute questions and answers) on any topic related to the integration of social-haptic communication in deafblind interpreting (theory and practice) and in deafblind educational contexts.

The conference will be in a hybrid format. The details are to be announced on the conference website later. We recommend participation in person.

Abstracts should be anonymous and should not be longer than two pages in length (including tables, examples, and references), in 12-point type, single line spacing and 2.5 cm margins. Abstracts should be sent in PDF format to hapticconference@unive.it

Instead of the PDF submissions, video submissions in Italian Sign Language are also possible (maximum length 5 minutes).

At maximum two abstracts (one of which must be co-authored) can be submitted.

The email should contain the following information: title of the paper, name, surname, affiliation, and email of the author(s). The deadline for abstract submission is 28th of April 2023. The notifications of abstract acceptance will be sent out by 28th of May 2023.

Important deadlines

Abstract submission deadline: 28 April 2023

Acceptance notification: 28 May 2023

Registration to the conference: from 28 June 2023

Conference: 4-5 September 2023

A selection of papers will be published in the conference proceedings after a peer-review process.

Full paper submission: 31 December 2023

Please send all inquiries to the following email address: hapticconference@unive.it