

The impact of hearing loss on conversational interaction

Participant Information Sheet (Adults with hearing loss & close interactional partners)

You are being invited to take part in a research study investigating conversational experiences of adults with and without hearing loss. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. You may want to talk to others about the study before taking part. You can also contact the lead researcher (Dr Ruth Corps; r.corps@sheffield.ac.uk) if anything is unclear or you have questions before taking part.

What is the purpose of this study and what does it involve?

The purpose of this study is to investigate how a hearing loss diagnosis affects a person's everyday life, their conversational interactions, and their social relationships. This study involves answering a number of questions, covering each of these topics, in an online survey. If you are an adult with hearing loss, we will also ask you about your diagnosis (such as when you were diagnosed with hearing loss and whether you wear hearing aids). The study will take no more than 25 minutes to complete and you will receive a £5 gift voucher for your time.

Why have I been chosen?

You are being asked to take part because you responded to a study advert and you meet the following criteria:

1. You are a native English speaker (i.e., English is the first language you learned to speak);
2. You are 55+ years old and have a clinical diagnosis of hearing loss (i.e., from an audiologist or a doctor) in both ears;
3. OR you regularly (at least once a week) interact with someone who is older than 55 years old and has a clinical diagnosis of hearing loss in both ears.

If you do not meet all of the criteria, please do not participate in this study.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, there will be no negative consequences. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form before you complete the study. If you have any questions about the research, please do not hesitate to ask the researcher (Dr. Ruth Corps) at any time prior to, during, or after you have completed the study (contact details are included at the end of this document). If you decide to participate, you can withdraw at any time during the study without reason or consequence – just close your internet browser window. You can ask that any data you have provided up to that point (even if you have completed the full study) be deleted by contacting Ruth Corps no more than two weeks after your day of participation and providing your

unique participant identifier (which you will create at the beginning of the study). After two weeks, your data will be anonymised and withdrawing your data will not be possible. Note that choosing to participate in this research will not create a legally binding agreement, nor is it intended to create an employment relationship between you and the University of Sheffield.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Some of the questions in this study may ask about topics that may be upsetting. If any of the questions cause you distress, you should end the study by closing your internet browser window and contact the lead researcher, who will refer you to appropriate support services. You will be provided with information about support services at the end of the study should you feel you require further support.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This work will help us better understand the experiences of adults with hearing loss so we can set priorities for future research and better address the needs of this population. You will also receive a £5 voucher for participating in this study. To receive this compensation, you will need to provide your email address, accessible by finance and administrative staff at the University of Sheffield, for reference in the event of a financial audit.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All your information will be kept strictly confidential and will only be accessible to members of the research team. Once data collection is complete, we will remove your email addresses (which you provide to receive participant payment) from the data, making it completely anonymous. The personal information you provide (such as your age) will be kept separately from the research data. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications. Your anonymous data will be used to support future research grants, will be published in academic journals, and will be made available to other researchers in accordance with the Open Science Framework.

What is the legal basis for processing my personal data?

According to data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis we are applying to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of an experiment carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the [University's Privacy Notice](#).

Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Sheffield will act as the data controller for this study. This means that the University of Sheffield is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

What if something goes wrong and I wish to complain about the research?

Should you wish to complain or express concerns about any aspect of this study, including potential exploitation, please contact Dr Ruth Corps (r.corps@sheffield.ac.uk) in the first instance. Any issues regarding safeguarding will be raised with the Head of the School of Psychology (Dr Chris Martin) and the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Manager (Lindsay Unwin). If you feel that your concern has not been handled in a satisfactory way, you can contact Dr Chris Martin directly (psy-hos@sheffield.ac.uk). If your concern relates to how your personal data has been handled, information about how to raise a complaint can be found in the [University's Privacy Notice](#). If your concern relates to potential exploitation, then you can contact the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Manager, Lindsay Unwin (l.v.unwin@sheffield.ac.uk).

Contact Details

Lead Researcher: Dr Ruth Corps (r.corps@sheffield.ac.uk)

Project Mentor: Prof Danielle Matthews (danielle.matthews@sheffield.ac.uk)

Research Ethics & Integrity Manager: Lindsay Unwin (l.v.unwin@sheffield.ac.uk)

Head of the School of Psychology: Dr Chris Martin (psy-hos@sheffield.ac.uk)

Any issues raised, including safeguarding, will be raised with the Head of School and the Research Ethics & Integrity Manager.

**Please let the researcher know if you have any questions about taking part in this study.
Thank you for taking the time to read about this project.**