

EDITOR'S PAGE

We are proud to present a special edition of the *Journal of Deafblind Studies on Communication*. This special issue is dedicated to the international conference of November 2016, celebrating the ten years anniversary of the International Master Communication and Deafblindness. It contains six interesting papers – all based on the plenary lectures given during the conference – as well as features and commentaries, including an overview of the conference and responses to the given plenary lectures.

In the first article, written by Daelman and Nafstad, a meta-view on communication analysis and intervention is given. The authors elaborate on the accomplishments during the ten years of the Master program, including the theses written by the Masterstudents. When analyzing contents of these theses, three interesting things were discovered: First, the communicative processes are complex and rich. Second, the tendency to engage in sense-making, meaning-making and language-making activity is very robust in humans as it is expressed in a diversity of forms. Third, the congenitally deafblind manner of being in the world is prominently embodied and dialogical. Furthermore, the dialogue is explored between professionals close to the very specific practice and academic scholars deeply into the universal. Lastly, Daelman and Nafstad demonstrate a video analysis in which they take a closer look at the micro level communication.

In the second paper, Markova investigates dialogicality and uniqueness of the Self-Other independence. A fundamental methodological question is raised: how to transform the unique and dynamic nature of dialogue into an empirical project that would allow general claims to be made about dialogicality? It is argued that while single cases do not allow for statistical generalisation, they allow for theoretical generalisation of research findings, as well as for generalisation of practices in professional services. Examples of theoretical generalisation of concepts such as ‘dialogical learning’ and ‘resilience’ are discussed.

The third contribution by Tetzchner is about valuable observations in language development. This article will be published in the summer of 2017.

In the fourth article, Gallagher explores embodied intersubjective understanding and communication in congenital deafblindness. The article provides three different views about social cognition, which attempt to explain

intersubjective understanding and communication. These show that vision and audition play a central role in all of these accounts. Alternative resources are proposed, which might provide a clue to understanding social cognition in deafblindness, and finally, whether this is the right way to put the question.

The fifth contribution, written by Linell, addresses the relationship between general dialogical theory ("dialogism") and the analysis of interaction involving persons with congenital deafblindness (CDB). In addressing some differences between major dialogical meta-theories it is argued that a theory of "extended dialogism" is needed, which – among other things – extends its domains of interest beyond exchanges between co-present persons using vocal-verbal language.

The Features and Commentaries section includes responses to the above mentioned articles. Furthermore, an elaborated overview of the conference is presented, along with a description of the given workshops during the conference. Also, the featured movies and poster presentations are elaborated on.

We are delighted to have published this special issue, while looking back on a wonderful conference. We would like to thank all the authors for their interesting contributions. We wish you happy reading and all the best.

Marleen J. Janssen
Editor-in-Chief