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BECOMING HEARING: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF EXPERT INTERPRETER
DEAF-WORLD CULTURAL COMPETENCE (349 pp.)

Co-Directors of Dissertation: William Bintz, Ph.D.
Teresa Rishel, Ph.D.

The Deaf-World is part of the national fabric with its citizens utilizing American Sign Language (ASL) as an indigenous language. Sign language interpreters facilitate accessible communication between Deaf and hearing persons. Information presented in this inquiry focused on interpreter cognitive and behavioral development of Deaf-World cultural competence. Cultural competence relates to learning new patterns of cross-cultural behavior with effective application in various contexts (Gallegos, Tindall, & Gallegos, 2008).

The inquiry explored expert participants' descriptions of interpreter Deaf-World cultural competence. Participants described transformational processes interpreters experienced entering the Deaf-World or in other words, becoming HEARING, the ASL representative 'gloss' for the sign *hearing*. This inquiry explored how participants' made meaning around co-constructed Deaf-World cross-cultural connections.

Participants expressed lived experience stories of Deaf-World cultural competence informed by the concept of currere narrative (Pinar, 1975, 2006). Data were coded in aggregate and themes found in participant narratives. Analysis described participants' significant statements, themes and essence of the phenomenon (Creswell, 2007) within the data set. Themes expert Deaf and hearing participants described about Deaf-World cultural competence included: HEARING participants avowed Deaf-World

affiliation or affiliation/alliance and ascription of Deaf-World efficacy; and Deaf participants avowed Deaf-World alliance and efficacy as well as conditional ascription of interpreter affiliation or affiliation/alliance. The essence of the phenomenon consisted of the idea that *becoming HEARING* included co-constructed community and cultural connections leading to Deaf-World affiliation or affiliation/alliance. Participants also described a tacit seven step process of entering the Deaf-World titled the interpreter affiliation/alliance narrative (IAAN) paradigm.