

AUDISM:

A THEORY AND PRACTICE OF AUDIOCENTRIC PRIVILEGE

- **Audism; First used by Tom Humphries in an unpublished article and later in his doctoral dissertation.**
- **Harlan Lane used Audism in MASK OF BENEVOLENCE.**
- **Shows up in many deaf studies scholarly work today- but what is it?**

“The notion that one is superior based on one's ability to hear or behave in the manner of one who hears” (p. 12, Humphries, 1977).

- **Many people have used oppression studies such as sexism, racism etc. to drive new theories in Audism-**
 - **Humphries- Individual Audism**
 - **Lane- Institutional Audism**
 - **Bauman- Metaphysical Audism**
 - **Gertz- Dysconscious Audism**
 - **Eckert- Laissez Faire Audism**
 - **Ladd- Colonialism**

Examples of Audist Practices and their intersections:

	INDIVIDUAL	INSTITUTIONAL	METAPHYSICAL	LAISSEZ-FAIRE
OVERT	Never Mind Killing by Police	College Admissions AVT No Sign on Bus	Animals	Culturally deficient
COVERT	I'd like to hire more Deaf, but I can't find any who are qualified.	IDEA, ADA	Childlike, I'm sorry Hulk	Deficient leadership
AVERSIVE	Your speech is beautiful, how deaf are you.	Disability Services, TV ads with sign used	Do you read lips? Were you born deaf?	Post-deafness Ethnic Identity is outdated

Activism-

- Once person knows the different types of practices that are oppressive for Deaf people- dialogue can begin.
- Example of dialogue:
http://www.facundoelement.com/articles/Butterfly_Effect_Series/1.html
- In this dialogue, Ryan Commerson and Alison Aubrecht raise awareness and encourage us to start discussion about what they have called the "Gallaudet Syndrome".
- Activism can be on many levels- individual, institutional. It can be within our community or in the larger community we live in.
- BUT.. We can't be activists if we haven't processed these theories and practices ourselves and reacted to it. Students are like sponges- they often absorb the emotions and reactions of their teachers toward specific issues such as Audism- so it is important to have a strong opinion and be able to guide students through this difficult dialogue.

References:

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- Ladd, Paddy. 2003. *Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deafhood*. Cleveland, OH: Multilingual Matters LTD.
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