

GES-2-----V

From 17 to 19 October, GES-2 will host the interdisciplinary conference ***Researching the Deaf Community 2025: On the Periphery of Attention***

The three-day forum will include papers, workshops, and round tables covering sociological, historical, and linguistic aspects of life within the Deaf community.

This year's conference, organised jointly with the International Laboratory for Social Integration Research at the Higher School of Economics, focuses on the diversity of life experience of community members, particularly unrepresented groups which are often ignored by researchers: the deafblind, people who become deaf later in life, hearing parents of deaf children, and others. The forum continues to develop this dialogue in an international context, setting a direction for discussions about the diversity of culture and identity in different countries.

The main goal of the conference is to support the formation of Deaf studies as a new discipline in Russia, along with fundamental and applied research on current issues concerning the Deaf community, education, historical processes, and sign language. The forum is not a closed event for professionals: anyone interested in the subject may join as a listener.

The forum will take place in person and will also be broadcast online

In addition to the main conference, there will also be a lecture and workshop with conference participants.

Facts and figures

- 24 countries, 89 papers, 34 events
- Over 40 participating institutions
- 4 working languages: Russian Sign Language, Russian, International Sign, English
- Interdisciplinary community of researchers, artists, architects, lawyers, psychologists, educators, and representatives of public organisations
- An international platform for dialogue on Deaf communities and culture in the global context
- Selected papers from the conference will be published in the almanac *Researching the Deaf Community*. All materials undergo anonymous peer review and are indexed in the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI).

Conference
Researching the Deaf Community 2025: On the Periphery of Attention
17–19 Oct 2025
16+

Press materials

Schedule and registration
To join the conference online, register by following the link
To attend the event in person at GES-2, register by following the link

Curators
Nikita Bolshakov
Vlad Kolesnikov

Partner



Information partner



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GES-2 House of Culture
15 Bolotnaya Embankment
Moscow, Russia
ges-2.org

Entry to the House of Culture is free of charge, by prior registration.

For updates, follow us on [YouTube](#).

Deaf and Voiced
A Russian-language channel devoted to the GES-2 programme of the same name and its projects, and also the Deaf community in general.

Press contact
press@v-a-c.org

To receive accreditation for the conference, please send a request to the above email by 16 October.

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Vlad Kolesnikov, curator of programmes for the Deaf community at V-A-C Foundation and GES-2, curator of the interdisciplinary project *Researching the Deaf Community*:

The conference was originally created as a space for presenting the results of the RDC Laboratory—a project in which deaf and hearing young adults learn about academic approaches, choose topics that matter to them, and with our support conduct research. However, the first forum went beyond the initial concept and attracted specialists from different countries and academic disciplines.

One of the most common questions is whether sign language is the same in all countries. For us, it is important not just to answer “no”—since sign languages, like spoken ones, differ from country to country—but also to show the contexts in which different Deaf communities live. This is why we value the conference so highly: it has become a platform for a broad international dialogue about approaches to studying and understanding deafness, which is then continued in collaborative research projects.

Nikita Bolshakov, PhD in Sociology, Associate Professor, and Leading Research Fellow at the International Laboratory for Social Integration Research at the Higher School of Economics, co-curator of the *Researching the Deaf Community* project at GES-2:

As a sociologist, I am deeply interested in the plenary session that focuses on methodological issues in researching the Deaf community. How is knowledge created and shared? Who can—and should—participate in these processes? How can we strengthen the agency of deaf researchers? These questions are especially relevant in our country, where Deaf Studies is only beginning to make its voice truly heard.

Background information

Deaf Studies is an academic discipline that took shape in the second half of the twentieth century in the United States, largely thanks to linguists' growing interest in American Sign Language. Sign language began to be regarded as an independent linguistic system, and deaf people as a distinct community with its own language and cultural characteristics requiring in-depth analysis.

Today, Deaf Studies is taught in universities and colleges in many countries and can be studied at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. The discipline encompasses diverse fields such as anthropology, sociology, linguistics, history, architecture, and others. This approach helps to understand the different aspects of the lives of deaf people and other members of the community.

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