

## **Deaf and gay: feelings of normality among perceptions of abnormality.**

When one considers societies attitudes to normality, deaf and disabled people and those who do not confirm to heteronormativity, are often considered 'not normal'. However, there are a number of people who are deaf and who do identify as gay and consider themselves a perfectly 'normal' member of society. This group is commonly referred to as the deaf gay community and they will manage multiple identities when encountering different situations and people, who view them as not normal. There is a general feeling that this group are a collectivist culture and they feel they are empowered and normal citizens within society.

My current research in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University is focusing on the *Identity, Culture and Language of the Deaf Gay Community* and will look to establish how deaf gay people identify themselves as a normal minority within a normal minority. My presentation will give an insight into findings to date and an indication as to what future research could be conducted.