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## **Navigating the world of emotions: Social Information processing in children with and without hearing loss**

Tsou, Y.

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**Author:** Tsou, Y.

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## Propositions

# Navigating the World of Emotions; Social Information Processing in Children with and without Hearing Loss

Yung-Ting Tsou

1. In a social environment composed mostly of people with typical hearing, children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) experience social interactions differently from their typically hearing (TH) peers, which guides them towards different patterns for processing other people's emotions (*this thesis*).
2. With early intervention for hearing loss, DHH children's skills for perceiving others' basic emotions are on par with their TH peers (*this thesis*).
3. DHH children use an adapted, compensatory strategy to encode explicit, visually observable emotional cues that give them most information about the situation, likely as a means to minimize miscommunication (*this thesis*).
4. Processing of emotional information has to be supported by adequate knowledge about social rules and about the causes of emotions (*this thesis*).
5. Improved emotional functioning leads to improved psychosocial functioning to a similar degree in DHH and TH children alike (*this thesis*).
6. Individual differences could reflect compensatory strategies to support daily living, or signal a need for support in a certain domain (*this thesis*).
7. To equip DHH children with adequate social-emotional knowledge, it is fundamental to adapt the environment to address their needs, and thus to increase their opportunities for social participation.
8. When children who face communication barriers are given as many opportunities for meaningful social interaction as typically developing children, they have the opportunity to gain commensurate social-emotional knowledge within naturally-occurring interactions.
9. We need more naturalistic stimulus materials, more studies on non-Western samples, and the development of tools suitable for cross-cultural research.
10. In the time of a pandemic, we are all developing new skills for communicating emotions in virtual social contexts and behind a face mask.
11. It makes more sense to have eleven propositions on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.