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Propositions of the PhD thesis

Social Emotions and Social Functioning in Chinese Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and Hearing Preschoolers

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1. Social emotions such as shame, guilt, pride, and empathy (i.e., emotion contagion, attention to others' feelings, prosocial behaviors) can be observed in Chinese children of preschool age (*this thesis*).
2. As preschool children grow older, they manifest more moral behaviors and stronger prosocial motives (*this thesis*).
3. Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children often encounter obstacles in their communications with typical hearing others, which delays their socialization and acquisition of social emotions (e.g., guilt, pride, prosocial behaviors) (*this thesis*).
4. The elicitation of social emotions relies on an adequate understanding of social norms, hence early interventions that facilitate DHH children's social learning may be crucial to safeguarding children's social-emotional development (*this thesis*).
5. Improved emotional functioning may lead to improved psychosocial functioning to a similar degree in DHH and typical hearing children (*this thesis*).
6. Cochlear implants cannot enhance DHH children's hearing to the level that they can overhear speech in complex, noisy environments, hence future research and interventions should aim to improve the soundscape of environments making it better accessible to all. (*the research field*)
7. To equip DHH children with adequate social-emotional knowledge, it is fundamental to adapt environments (e.g., creating inclusive learning and living environments) to address their needs, and thus increase their opportunities for social participation. (*the research field*)
8. More cross-cultural research involving non-Western samples is called for to explore the latent influence of culture on children's understanding and their expressions of social emotions. (*the research field*)
9. Future research can employ neuropsychological approaches to deepen our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms underlying social emotions in young children. Also, wearable sensors can provide crucial information on how DHH children interact with peers in their daily routines, which may lead to further improvements in the current rehabilitation programs. (*the research*)

field & the societal subjects)

10. Protecting hearing is important for people of all ages. Adults are also susceptible to hearing loss: for example, using headphones for a long time could lead to sudden sensorineural deafness. Therefore more attention should be paid to hearing protection in daily life. *(the societal subjects)*