Signing and gesturing in later life
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**Communication in aging**
- Slowdown of information processing, attentional deficits and troubles in working memory
- Somatic constraints and gesture specialization (Freyeisen & Havard 1999)
- Individual variation (Valdois et al. 1990): subtle changes at old age > severe communicative changes at very old age (80 y. old and more)
- Adaptive and compensatory strategies (Baltes & Baltes 1990)

**Pragmatic gestures**
- Gestures are an integral part of linguistic communication (Sweetser 2009) and window onto the speaker’s mind (Goldin-Meadow & Alibali 2013)
- “Pragmatically, gestures are involved in the production, packaging and conveyance of meaning, the control and negotiation of interpretation, the expression of stance and viewpoint, the internal and external regulation of discourse” (Lapin 2011:102)
- Pragmatic markers in Spoken Languages (SPLs) are learned pairings of form/meaning (i.e. constructions) (Langacker 2001)
- Sign Languages (SLs) offer the unique property to grammaticize both manual and nonmanual gestures (Hermann & Steinbach 2013; McKee & Wallingford 2011)

**Palm-Up gestures (PUs)**
- Canonical form of PU family gesture (Kendon 2004; Müller 2004): open lax handshape, supine forearm, upward orientation

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**Hypothesis:** There are some adaptive, pragmatic age-related phenomena that can be shared by both speakers and signers in later life

**Research question 1:** What could be the similarities and differences in deaf and hearing older people’s use of pragmatic devices?

**Research question 2:** Do manual gestures cluster with nonmanuals in the same manner in Spoken French (SpFr) and French Sign Language (LSFB) to convey similar functions?

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**Cross-linguistic, interindividual**

CorPAGEst
- 50 PUs (incl. 18 micro-PUs) Nadine: 48 PUs (10.5min.)
- Albertine: 2 micro-PUs (0.9min.)

LSFB Corpus
- 63 PUs (incl. 11 micro-PUs) 5004: 49 PUs (8min.)
- S004: 14 PUs (6min.)

**Functional coding scheme for speech and gestures**

**Language domains**

- Lexical & Bolly (forthc.)
- Spoken: Spontaneous, Repetitive, Interactive

**Semantic level**

- Lexical & Bolly (forthc.)
- Spoken: Spontaneous, Repetitive, Interactive

**Pramtic level**

- Lexical & Bolly (forthc.)
- Spoken: Spontaneous, Repetitive, Interactive

**Specific markers of PUs**

- Lexical & Bolly (forthc.)
- Spoken: Spontaneous, Repetitive, Interactive

**Coding procedure and analysis**
- Video data analysis using the ELAN software
- Form-based (Müller et al. 2013) and functional analysis (Bolly & Crible in prep.)
- Identification of PUs (including micro-PUs) and description of co-occurring nonmanuals
- Frequency of PUs/minute with regard to number of signs in LSFB and number of words & gestures in SpFr

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**Main results**

**Macro-functions of PUs**
- SpFr: 50 PUs
- LSFB: 63 PUs

**Micro-functions of PUs**
- SpFr: 50 PUs
- LSFB: 63 PUs

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**Selected references:**