Recruiting participants for qualitative research on interpreter mediated communication within health care services – facing and overcoming challenges

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This presentation springs out of the PhD-project *Interpreter mediated communication at Norwegian Health Care Centres – communicative activity in interpreter mediated interaction between health care nurses and parents.*

The project aims to explore the creation, maintenance and accounts of social and coordinative activities in telephone and onsite interpreter mediated consultations at Norwegian health care centres. Methodologically the project is firstly based on Conversation analysis and video-stimulated accounts to analyse video-recordings of authentic interaction between health care nurses and parents mediated by an interpreter (Sidnell, 2011). Secondly, it builds on the accounts of the health care nurses, parents and interpreters on their participation in the interaction when seeing the recordings (Pomerantz, 2005). The project sheds light on the complexity of the activities unfolding during an interpreter mediated interaction, especially within the framework of telephone interpreting, and thus also adds a critical perspective to the value of the human interpreter as opposed to an AI-interpreter (Wadensjö, 1998; Wadensjö, 1999; Skaaden, 2018; Hansen, 2023).

Recruitment of health care nurses, parents and interpreters is ongoing during the autumn/winter 2026/27. The participants are recruited in this particular order due to practical and ethical concerns. Recruiting both professionals and laymen to be observed closely as in this study brings forward their vulnerability and challenges their integrity as experts and private human beings. The location being within the health sector, and the interpreter language chosen to be Russian only adds to this complexity. Therefore, I would like to elaborate on this process in my presentation, reflecting on challenges and means of overcoming them.

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