

## **Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007**

### **Sounds perceived as disturbing by hearing aid users in their daily soundscape**

Skagerstrand, Å.

Örebro University, Sweden

Soundscape of today is becoming more and more noisy and noise is a major origin for problems of annoyance. The noisy soundscape restrict the condition for full participation in particular for spoken communication. For the hearing impaired person annoyance of noise affects the well being in several situations besides communication situations. Earlier studies have tried to describe the urban soundscape and normal hearing persons perception of the same, but data for hearing impaired persons are rare. In this study 60 hearing impaired persons are describing their daily soundscape with focus on disturbing sounds that causes annoyance.

The aims of the study are twofold, to describe sounds that hearing aid users find annoying in their daily soundscape and to investigate if fundamental factors, such as age or gender can predict if hearing aid users will experience disturbance from certain sounds.

The used method is a diary with questions about disturbing sounds in the daily soundscape to be answered every day during 14 days. The diaries were analysed with content analysis. The result of the study shows that most hearing aid users experience disturbing sounds in their daily environment and disturbing sounds are common sound sources such as water, paper rustling. When studying the data grouped in relation to age, gender, hearing aid experience, and signal processing no significant factors can be found to explain the experience of disturbing sounds.

From this study it can be concluded that further research is needed to improve the knowledge of hearing aid users soundscape and the soundscapes consequences for hearing impaired and their rehabilitation.

