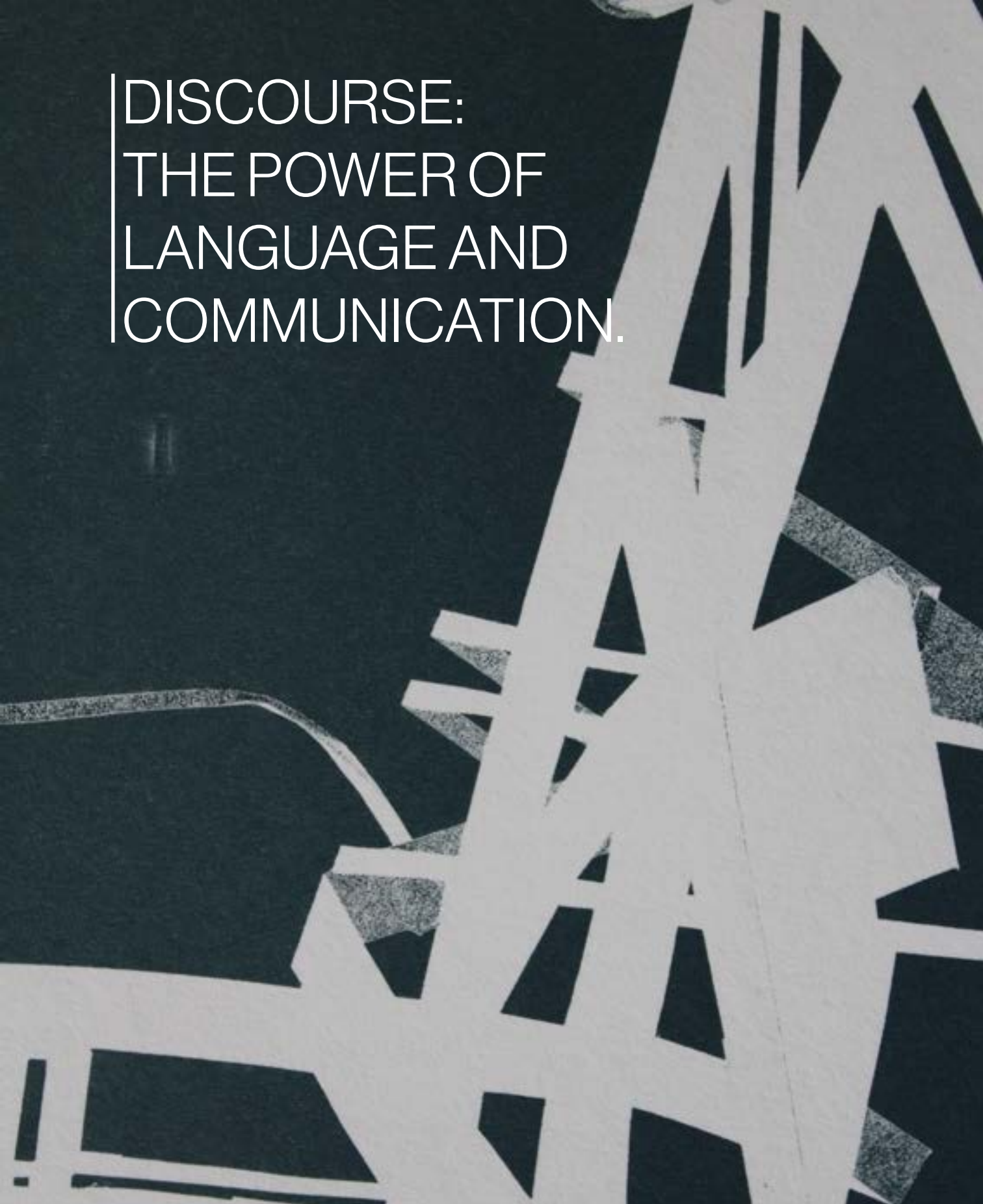


DISCOURSE:  
THE POWER OF  
LANGUAGE AND  
COMMUNICATION.



# KEY QUESTIONS.

1. What do certain words represent in society?
2. How does language reinforce power disparities?
3. How do you/others challenge the boundaries of language?
4. What are your personal experiences of racial, gender or class profiling through language?
5. How are you trying to challenge the normalities of the use of certain words?
6. Are you involved in any spaces that reimagine different ways of using language?
7. How does an individual's actions play in enforcing the biases of language?
8. How has technology interpreted biases in language? (e.g. through speech recognition, social media, artificial intelligence etc.)
9. How is language used to desensitise inequality/human right issues?
10. What role does media and political communication play in contributing to hateful rhetoric?

| FURTHER  
| RESOURCES.



# KEY TERMS.

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Articulate	Having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently.
Artificial Intelligence	The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.
ASL	Acronym for American Sign Language
Bias	Inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.
Black	A term used in certain countries, often in socially based systems of racial classification or of ethnicity to name people, especially one of African, Australian Aboriginal and/or Melanesian ancestry.
Black money	Income illegally obtained or not declared for tax purposes
Black sheep	A member of a family or group who is regarded as a disgrace to it.
Body Language	The conscious and unconscious movements and postures by which attitudes and feelings are communicated.
Class	A system of ordering society whereby people are divided into sets based on perceived social or economic status.
Cochlear Implant	A device that can be surgically implanted into a person's cochlea to stimulate it to cause hearing. It consists of a tiny receiver which is placed under the skin in the bony part behind the ear.
Colourism	A term coined by Alice Walker in 1982. Describes the ideology and practice that dark skinned people are lesser than light skinned people. This ideology is indigenous to many cultures outside of the West but is one of the main foundations of racism and white supremacy.
Communicate	Share or exchange information, news, or ideas
Dating	Go out with (someone in whom one is romantically or sexually interested)
Deaf	Partially or wholly lacking or deprived of the sense of hearing; unable to hear.

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Democracy	A form of government, tied strongly to Ancient Greek political systems, wherein citizens of a state elect representatives to govern them and potentially have the power to remove such representatives from their position.
Desensitise	Make less sensitive
Disability	A disadvantage or handicap, especially one imposed or recognized by the law
Discrimination	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex
Eloquent	Fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing
Ethnic	Relating to a population subgroup (within a larger or dominant national or cultural group) with a common national or cultural tradition.
Ethnic cleansing	The mass expulsion or killing of members of one ethnic or religious group in an area by those of another.
Ethnicity	A group of people who identify with each other on the basis of shared historical, social, cultural experiences, ancestry which distinguish them from other groups.
Etymology	The study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history.
Fluent	Able to express oneself easily and articulately.
Hierarchy	A system in which members of an organization or society are ranked according to relative status or authority
Inequality	Difference in size, degree, circumstances, etc.; lack of equality.
Innuendo	an allusive or oblique remark or hint, typically a suggestive or disparaging one
Internalised Racism	Internalised racism is loosely defined as the internalisation by people of racist attitudes towards members of their own ethnic group.
Language	The method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way.
LGBT	An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. ... It may be used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual or non-cisgender, instead of exclusively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.
Lip read	(of a deaf person) understand speech from observing a speaker's lip movements.

Marginalise	To relegate to the fringes, out of the mainstream; make seem unimportant:to place in a position of marginal importance, influence, or power.
Matriarchy	A social system in which females hold primary power, predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property at the specific exclusion of men, at least to a large degree. An example of a matriarchal society is Moja village in Northern Kenya founded by Rebecca Lolosoli.
Minority	The smaller number or part, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole.
Misogynoir	A term referring to misogyny directed towards Black women, where race and gender both play roles in bias.
Narrative	A spoken or written account of connected events; a story.
Oppression	When a person or a group of people are subjected to unjust, and usually violent treatment by those in position of power.
Patriarchy	A social system in which cis-men hold primary power, predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property at the specific exclusion of women and non gender conforming people, at least to a large degree.
Prejudice	Hatred towards someone based on their identity. Example: An oppressed person of colour can be prejudiced against privileged races but cannot be racist.
Privilege	A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a individuals in particular groups by institutions.
Queer	An umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual and/or cisgender
Queer Phobia	Similar to Homophobia, describes a fear or hatred of queer folk (any one who is not heterosexual)
Quixotic	Extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical.
Race	A socially constructed system of classification of the human population into distinct, unequal, discontinuous groups, based, from the 17th century onwards, on physical features and ancestry. Though the concept existed long before this time, in many different forms, it was used by European scholars, scientists, merchants and nobility to legitimise and justify their genocide and dispossession of the peoples of America and enslavement of Sub-Saharan Africans.
Racial	Relating to race



Racism	Acts of prejudice, bigotry, and/or discrimination of individuals of one race against members of other races. These acts do not count as racism if they are coming from members of a marginalised race, i.e. black people, as they do not have the social, political or economic power to make their actions oppressive and effective. Racism also refers to institutional, systemic, linguistic and economic structures that perpetuate the idea of racial superiority and inferiority, allowing for a wide range of effects, e.g. skin-bleaching, overrepresentation of PoC in prisons, underrepresentation of PoC in media, the poverty of Africa and its Diaspora community.
Representation	Refers to equality in opportunity and visibility. For example, representative media is media that is reflective of the variety of races, cultures, genders or religions that its entire readership belongs to.
Rhetoric	Language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect, but which is often regarded as lacking in sincerity or meaningful content.
Sexuality	Refers to a person's sexual orientation/preferences in terms of sexual activities
Sign Language	A system of communication using visual gestures and signs, as used by deaf people.
Slur	An insulting or disparaging remark or innuendo
Status quo	The existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues.
Stereotypes	A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.
Subversion	To undermine the power, authority and logic of an established system, culture or institution with the aim of overthrowing or causing a significant transformation.
Terminology	The body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, theory, profession, etc.
White lies	A harmless or trivial lie, especially one told to avoid hurting someone's feelings.
White Supremacy	White supremacy is an ideology centered upon the promotion of the belief, that white people are superior. It is argued by critical race theorist that all white people have a level of white supremacy values because of the media, education and politics have embedded whiteness as superior in society.
White Washing	A term used to describe white actors or actress playing non-fictional and historical non-white character roles. Therefore writing and disconnecting historical events and achievements to the non-white community.
Xenophobia	Fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign.

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# DIGITAL RESOURCES.

## Websites:

The Student Union Lecture Series 5: Unsettling Whiteness

[www.soasradio.org/tags/decolonising-our-minds](http://www.soasradio.org/tags/decolonising-our-minds)

The Decolonising Our Minds Society is delighted to host renowned academic Barnor Hesse from Northwestern University.

The African Linguist Network

[www.theafricanlinguistnetwork.com/](http://www.theafricanlinguistnetwork.com/)

The African Linguist Network is an online network that connects African linguistic and translation experts world-wide

The Linguist List

[www.linguistlist.org/forms/langs/africa.cfm](http://www.linguistlist.org/forms/langs/africa.cfm)

Dedicated to providing information on language and language analysis, and to providing the discipline of linguistics with the infrastructure necessary to function in the digital world

The African Linguist Network

[www.alnresources.wordpress.com](http://www.alnresources.wordpress.com)

An online network that connects African linguistic and translation experts worldwide

Languagematters

[www.languagematters.co.uk/](http://www.languagematters.co.uk/)

A specialist multilingual recruitment consultancy offering temporary, contract and permanent bilingual jobs

Deaf First

[www.deaf-first.org.uk](http://www.deaf-first.org.uk)

Provides support to colleges needing support for their deaf or hard of hearing students

A.B.L

[www.appointmentsbilanguage.co.uk](http://www.appointmentsbilanguage.co.uk)

A recruitment consultancy providing multilingual people that will help communicate with international clients

Network for Languages

[www.networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk](http://www.networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk)

Provides professional development opportunities, support, advice and networking opportunities for teachers in primary, secondary and further education

Charters Institute of Linguists

[www.ciol.org.uk](http://www.ciol.org.uk)

Aims to enhance and promote the value of languages and language skills in the public interest and provides regulated qualifications through the IoL Educational Trust

African American Linguists

[www.weboaal.com](http://www.weboaal.com)

Promotes a bilingual society within the African-American community in order to prepare marketable citizens for a global economy

The International Congress of Linguists

[www.icl20capetown.com](http://www.icl20capetown.com)

Aims to connect with the major ways of studying the phenomenon of language, while being responsive to the diversity of contexts

British Sign

[www.british-sign.co.uk](http://www.british-sign.co.uk)

Learn British Sign Language online

Online Etymology Dictionary

<https://www.etymonline.com/>

Find out the root of modern English words; they're explanations of what words meant and how they sounded 600 or 2,000 years ago

## Videos:

The Grapevine

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCPf55sis3jNICWi3K1NsJMQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPf55sis3jNICWi3K1NsJMQ)

The Grapevine is a fresh and innovative take on the panel style discussion. The show places the topics of today in the hands and minds of young game changers, artists, cultural innovators, and professionals to dissect what the impact is for this generation.

Mashable UK

<https://mashable.com/2017/10/12/drag-queens-teach-lingo/#mtqwqFHDIQqN>

Mashable is a global, multi-platform media and entertainment company. This video shows drag queens from RuPaul's Drag Con explaining drag terminology.

The School of Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTMJygaGCBE>

The School of Life is an open source philosophy education site. This video explains how certain words match with certain feelings.

Akala's Odyssey

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b09sc141/akalas-odyssey>

Writer and hip-hop artist Akala voyages across the Mediterranean and beyond to

solve some of the mysteries behind Homer's monumental poem, the Odyssey.

Sign Duo

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCET0ZgnCFLi1369c3ZWfSFA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCET0ZgnCFLi1369c3ZWfSFA)

Deaf and Hearing Couple channel all about Deaf Culture, Sign Language, Relationships, and just the Journey of Life.

Ekko Languages

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBvI8xXfyPWVXYRnvbe7rw>

A language learning Youtube channel.

Lang Focus

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNhX3WQEkraW3VHPyup8jkQ>

A Youtube channel dedicated to understanding a learning the hidden meaning of different languages.

How artists create space for dialogue

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvype-frXWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvype-frXWw)

Zoe Whitley explains how listening to artists, and talking with them, creates not only a new language for cultural dialogue but also consider new spaces for that dialogue to take place in her Ted Talk.

## Podcasts:

The Student Union Lecture Series 5: Unsettling Whiteness

[www.soasradio.org/tags/decolonising-our-minds](https://www.soasradio.org/tags/decolonising-our-minds)

The Decolonising Our Minds Society is delighted to host renowned academic Barnor Hesse from Northwestern University.

Hidden Brain

<https://www.npr.org/player/embed/577713815/581666488>

Hidden Brain is a podcast on NPR radio. This podcast episode is about language; cognitive science professor Lera Boroditsky says the languages we speak can do more than that—they can shape how we see the world in profound ways.

Hidden Brain - Slanguage

<https://www.npr.org/player/embed/509022419/509037630>

In this episode the linguist John McWhorter says all the “likes” and LOLs are part of a natural – and inevitable – evolution of language.

BBC Four Thought

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03brt2x>

Author and broadcaster Lindsay Johns argues that language is power, and makes the case for speaking English properly.

Morning Edition

<https://www.npr.org/player/embed/1473161/1473162>

Susan Stamberg talks with linguist Deborah Tannen about the power of language — in politics, at work and in the home.

Code Switch

<https://www.npr.org/player/embed/579757002/580129041>

The use of the word 'racist' in the age of Trump.

LingLab Podcast

<https://www.mixcloud.com/Linglab/sociolinguistics-a-definition/>

A podcast series defining and explaining what 'sociolinguistics' actually is.

## Key Organisations:

American Council of the teaching of foreign languages

[www.actfl.org/](http://www.actfl.org/)

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. ACTFL is an individual membership organization of more than 12,500 language educators and administrators from elementary through graduate education, as well as government and industry.

Modern Language Association

[www.mla.org/](http://www.mla.org/)

In addition to hosting an annual convention and sustaining one of the finest publishing programs in the humanities, the MLA is a leading advocate for the study and teaching of languages and literatures and serves as a clearinghouse for professional resources for teachers and scholars. Visit the sections below to find out more about the MLA's mission and governance or how to get in touch with us.

National Association for Bilingual Education

[www.nabe.org/](http://www.nabe.org/)

Since 1975, the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) has been a non-profit membership organization that works to advocate for educational equity and excellence for bilingual/multilingual students in a global society.

TESOL International Association

[www.tesol.org/](http://www.tesol.org/)

TESOL International Association, formerly Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, is the largest professional organization for teachers of English as a second or foreign language

Center for Applied Linguistics

[www.cal.org/](http://www.cal.org/)

The Center for Applied Linguistics is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1959 and headquartered in Washington, DC

National Council of Teachers of English

[www2.ncte.org/](http://www2.ncte.org/)

The National Council of Teachers of English is a United States professional organization dedicated to “improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.

The National Deaf Society

[www.ndcs.org.uk/](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/)

The National Deaf Children’s Society is the leading charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people.

British Deaf Association

[bda.org.uk](http://bda.org.uk)

The BDA is very much at the forefront of pushing for legal recognition of BSL in England, Wales and of BSL and Irish Sign Language (ISL) in Northern Ireland. Scotland is the first country in the UK to pass a BSL (Scotland) Act in Sept 2015. Achieving legal status means that BSL would be protected and promoted in the same way as Welsh and Gaelic languages. This would mean that service providers would be required to produce information and support where appropriate in BSL, giving equal access to services for sign language users and removing many of the commonplace barriers that they currently face, and which result in widespread discrimination.

Action on hearing loss

[www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

As the largest charity for people with hearing loss in the UK, we understand how hearing loss can affect everything in your life from your relationships, to your education and your job [prospects](#). We’re here to support and help you, so you can take back control and live the life you choose. From day-to-day-care, to practical information, to campaigning for a fairer world for people with hearing loss, and funding research to find a cure, we’re taking action on hearing loss.



## Twitter Users to Follow:

@LanguageLog - Language Log is a group blog on language and linguistics started in the summer of 2003 by Mark Liberman and Geoffrey Pullum

@lol\_prosciutto - Aria Dean, writer, critic, artist and curator

@ELRAnews - The European Language Resources Association, is a non-profit organisation whose main mission is to make Language Resources (LRs) for Human Language Technologies (HLT) accessible to all

@MyLanguageCloud - My Language Cloud is a new educational twitter feed for language development

@WritersofColor - More visibility for writers of colour to ease their access to publications, and build a platform that is both easy for editors to use and accurately represents the writers

@BritishSignBSL - A British Sign Language course online

@SignatureDeaf - The UK's leading awarding body for deaf communication qualifications

@black\_in\_ai - A place for sharing ideas, fostering collaborations and discussing initiatives to increase the presence of Black people in the field of Artificial Intelligence

@Linguist\_CIOL - The Linguist is the bi-monthly professional journal of the Chartered Institute of Linguists

@IndianLinguist - Subcontinental socio-linguistics. Focused on Indian English, Hindi-Urdu and Bangla

@Visual\_Linguist - Professor at Tilburg University of language, (neuro) cognition, comics, emoji, and other multimodal communication