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THE FIFTH PARAMETER: Issue 005: The Deaf Halo Effect – When Representation Is Mistaken for Governance

Heather Grizzle · June 14, 2026

The Deaf Halo Effect describes how Deaf affiliation and community trust can sometimes be mistaken for accountability, transparency, and good governance. Issue 005 of The Fifth Parameter examines why representation matters but cannot replace oversight.

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Tau ntau caum xyoo dhau los, cov zej zog Deaf tau sib ntaus sib tw kom tau sawv cev nyob rau hauv cov chaw uas cov kev txiav txim siab txog kev nkag mus tau (accessibility) feem ntau raug ua tsis muaj lawv nrog. Qhov kev thov no yog ib qho tsim nyog thiab tsim nyog tiag tiag. Cov cai tswjfw m uas cuam tshuam rau cov neeg Deaf yuav tsum muaj cov lus qhia los ntawm cov neeg Deaf. Cov thev naus laus zis uas npaj los pab cov neeg Deaf yuav tsum muaj cov kws paub txog Deaf koom nrog. Cov koom haum uas hais tias lawv txhawb kev nkag mus tau yuav tsum lav phib xaub rau cov zej zog uas lawv cuam tshuam txog. Txawm li cas los xij, txhua txoj kev hloov kho puav leej muaj kev pheej hmoo yuav tsim ib qho chaw dig muag tshiab. Thaum peb



nrhiav kev sawv cev, peb tej zaum yuav xaub yuam kev sib xyaw ntawm kev sawv cev thiab kev tswj hwm.

Why the Confusion Is Understandable

Qhov kev xaub yuam kev no yeej nkag siab tau. Keeb kwm dhau los, cov neeg Deaf tau raug kaw tsis pub nkag rau hauv kev ua thawj coj, tsis muaj cib fim los tsim cov cai tswjfwfwm txog kev nkag mus tau, thiab raug yuam kom lawv qhia txog lawv txoj kev paub uas cov koom haum feem ntau tsis quav ntsej txog lub neej tiag tiag. Vim li ntawd, kev coj noj coj ua ntawm cov Deaf feem ntau nqa lub hnub qub loj heev. Ib tug neeg Deaf uas tsim tau lub koom haum, ib tug thawj coj Deaf, ib tug kws tshawb fawb Deaf, lossis ib lub koom haum uas cov Deaf coj feem ntau ua tau ib qho cim loj txog kev raug cai. Feem coob zaub, qhov cim ntawd tsim nyog tau txais. Kev sawv cev tseem ceeb. Lub neej tiag tiag tseem ceeb. Kev paub ntawm zej zog tseem ceeb. Qhov teeb meem pib kev tshwm sim thaum cov yam ntxwv no raug suav tsis yog cov zog nyob hauv kev tswj hwm tab sis yog ua ib qho hloov chaw rau kev tswj hwm nws tus kheej.

Naming the Pattern

Qhov kev tshwm sim no yuav nkag siab tau tias yog Deaf Halo Effect: qhov kev xav tias ib tug neeg, koom haum, thev naus laus zis, lossis kev pab cuam yog qhov ntseeg tau, muaj kev ncaj ncees, lav phib xaub, lossis ua tau zoo vim nws yog Deaf coj, Deaf tsim, lossis raug lees paub tias muaj feem cuam tshuam nrog cov zej zog Deaf. Lub tswv yim no tsim los ntawm qhov kev txhais halo effect uas twb muaj lawm hauv kev xav (psychology), qhov uas ib qho yam ntxwv zoo cuam tshuam rau kev pom txog cov yam ntxwv uas tsis muaj feem cuam tshuam. Nyob rau hauv qhov xwm txheej no, kev raug cai ntawm kab lig kev cai (cultural legitimacy) yuav tsim tau cov kev xav txog kev txawj ntse, kev ncaj ncees, kev saib xyuas, lossis kev lav phib xaub uas tseem tsis tau muaj pov thawj qhia tseeb.

Cov kev tshwm sim tsis yog ib txwm muaj lub hom phiaj. Cov lus nug txog kev tswj hwm yuav raug ua kom mos lossis ncua sij hawm. Cov kev txiav txim siab yuav nqus khoom yuav tso siab heev rau lub npe zoo ntawm zej zog. Cov neeg thuam yuav ua siab nyeg tsis kam tsa cov lus nug vim ntshai yuav zoo li tsis ncaj rau zej zog. Cov koom haum yuav raug tshuaj xyuas tsawg dua li cov kev pab cuam sib npaug uas nyob sab nraud ntawm cov Deaf kev sib txuas. Raws sij hawm mus, kev ntseeg siab yuav



raug cais tawm ntawm cov pov thawj. Cov lub siab zoo yuav raug xyaw ua ke nrog kev tswj hwm zoo.

Artificial Intelligence Raises the Stakes

This challenge becomes particularly relevant as artificial intelligence enters accessibility spaces. Sign Language AI systems, accessibility platforms, and technology vendors increasingly seek legitimacy through community affiliation. Deaf participation is important and often essential. Yet participation alone does not answer questions about transparency, accountability, risk management, data stewardship, workforce impact, or deployment safeguards. A technology does not become trustworthy simply because Deaf people were involved in its development. Trustworthiness must still be demonstrated.

Representation and Governance Are Not Interchangeable

The Fifth Parameter muaj nyob vim tias kev sawv cev thiab kev tswj hwm tsis yog ob lub tswv yim hloov tau rau ib leeg. Kev sawv cev muab kev pom zoo. Kev tswj hwm muab kev lav phib xaub. Kev sawv cev pab kom paub tseeb tias cov kev txiav txim siab tau txais kev qhia los ntawm lub neej tiag tiag. Kev tswj hwm pab kom cov kev txiav txim siab tseem raug tshuaj xyuas. Cov kev sib koom nkag mus tau uas noj qab nyob zoo yuav tsum muaj ob yam tib si. Thaum ib yam hloov chaw rau lwm yam, qhov chaw dig muag yuav tshwm sim.

A technology does not become trustworthy simply because Deaf people were involved in its development.

Completing the Work That Representation Began

Qhov kev sim rau yav tom ntej tsis yog los txo qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev coj noj coj ua ntawm Deaf, tab sis yog los txhawb cov txheej txheem uas siv los ntsuas txhua qhov kev pab cuam kev nkag mus tau. Kev ntseeg siab ntawm zej zog yuav tsum qhib qhov rooj rau kev sib tham, tsis yog kaw qhov rooj rau cov lus nug. Kev raug cai ntawm kab lig kev cai yuav tsum qhia txog kev tswj hwm, tsis yog hloov nws chaw. Cov koom haum muaj zog tshaj plaws tsis yog cov uas zam kev tshuaj xyuas vim tias lawv raug



ntseeg. Lawv yog cov uas tseem tsim nyog raug ntseeg vim tias lawv txais tos kev tshuaj xyuas.

Yog li ntawd, Deaf Halo Effect tsis yog ib qho kev sib cav tawm tsam kev sawv cev. Nws yog ib qho kev sib cav txhawb kom ua tiav tas cov hauj lwm uas kev sawv cev tau pib. Kev nkag mus tau tsim nyog tau txais kev coj noj coj ua uas tsis yog tsuas pom tau xwb, tab sis kuj lav phib xaub thiab; tsis yog tsuas muaj tseeb xwb, tab sis kuj qhia meej thiab; tsis yog tsuas raug ntseeg xwb, tab sis kuj yog qhov ntseeg tau tiag tiag.

Yuav Hais Qhov Chaw Li Cas

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