WORKSHOP
Eighth International Symposium on Place Names 2025

Ethical principles of doing toponymic research with Deaf communities

26 November 2025
14:00-15:30
Clarens, South Africa

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https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10047495/

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ISPN 2025 Workshop
(face-to-face)
Ethical principles of doing toponymic research with Deaf communities

The Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies at the University of the Free State (RSA), in partnership with the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy as well as the ICOS Working Group on Toponymy, is hosting the Eighth International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN 2025) 26-29 November 2025 in Clarens, South Africa. It will include this workshop:

Workshop theme: Ethical principles of doing toponymic research with Deaf communities
Presenters: Dr Patrick Sibanda and Dr Chrismi Loth (University of the Free State, South Africa)
Target audience: Practitioners, scholars, and government officials working in toponymy and/or with Deaf communities
Date: 26 November 2025
Time: 14:00-15:30
Location: (face-to-face event) Protea Hotel, Clarens (South Africa)
Register: https://www.ufs.ac.za/conference/2025-ispn-home/
Contact: kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za
Join: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10047495/

The presenters will share and discuss insights developed from a project on signed toponymy. The session is envisioned as an interactive session, with the presenters leading the discussion and attendees sharing insights from their own research, their various contexts, and their policy knowledge.

Programme outline:

1. Introduction:
    1.1. Sign language(s)
    1.2. D/deafness
    1.3. Deaf culture
    1.4. Deaf community.
2. Deaf research participants as a vulnerable/marginalised/minority group vis-à-vis other such groups.
3. Linguistic-cultural significance of place-name signs.
4. Ethical frameworks used for human research.
5. Basic ethical best practices for research with Deaf participants.
6. Feedback and sharing of knowledge/experiences.