Marie Basovníková: Stereotype of a Hearing Person in Sign Languages

The workshop shall be based on the theory of stereotypes within J. Bartmiński's cognitive ethnolinguistics approach. To date, research has related to various social stereotypes (of occupation, nationality etc.); here it is the stereotype of a hearing person that shall be addressed – it shall be examined from the perspective of the Deaf cultural minority, i.e. the manner in which it is embedded in various sign languages. Within this perspective, both signs referring to a "hearing person", or a person being a part of the hearing community, and texts within certain genres of the Deaf folklore (esp. jokes and storytelling) on the topic of the hearing community, shall be targeted. The presumption is that various levels of the hearing person stereotype (appearance, communication, language, behaviour, qualities etc.) will be discovered. Given the fact that users of numerous sign languages shall take part, interesting comparative findings could be arrived at, too. (Does the hearing person stereotype differ in various sign languages and, if so, what does the difference consist in?)