



LUND UNIVERSITY

Soundscapes and (dis)able bodies

Alftberg, Åsa

2014

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Alftberg, Å. (2014). *Soundscapes and (dis)able bodies*. Abstract from Nordic Network for Health Research within Social Sciences and the Humanities : Creative and able citizens. Managing health and illness during the life course., Helsinki University, Finland.

Total number of authors:

1

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Konferens: "Creative and able citizens: managing health and illness during the life course."

Nordiskt Nätverk för Humanistisk-Samhällsvetenskaplig Hälsorforskning

Helsingfors 22-23 maj 2014

Abstract: Soundscapes and (dis)able bodies

Åsa Alftberg, PhD

Lund University

One of the characteristics of modern society is considered to be an increasing amount of sounds and noise, both in volume and scope. While various locations involve different types of sounds, not everyone has equal access to these soundscapes. Additionally, sounds are not neutral but include cultural beliefs and norms. How are sounds, or lack of sounds, experienced by persons whose access to sounds is not obvious, that is people with hearing loss? Which groups of people are excluded from the soundscapes of modern society?

The empirical material of the study is people with cochlear implants, who are D/deaf but by the use of medical technology have hearing. What are their experiences of different types of soundscapes, especially of soundscapes associated to leisure activities? What strategies do they use when they are in difficult sound environments? The starting point of this study is that disabilities, such as in hearing loss, not only have medical implications but also social and cultural consequences. Disability/ability is a way of thinking about the body that is based on historical and cultural circumstances, always in close relation to the significance of space and place. By following individuals with different access to sound and noise, the hidden premises of the modern soundscapes are made visible.