



**SARAH GRANBERG** (1973) works as a lecturer in audiology at the School of Health and Medical Sciences at Örebro University and as a researcher at the Audiological Research Center, Örebro University Hospital. She is also affiliated with the Swedish Institute for Disability Research (SIDR), Örebro University, and the HEAD Graduate School of Linköping University. Her main research interests concern adults with hearing loss and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). She has previously worked as a clinical audiologist, with a specialization in audiological rehabilitation, and her research focuses, both theoretically and clinically, on applications for audiological rehabilitation.

The present thesis explores functioning and disability in adults with hearing loss (HL) from the ICF perspective. HL is a health condition that affects more than 360 million people worldwide. Although the etiology varies, in general, HL has a significant impact on the everyday lives of affected adults. Functional and disabling aspects of the health condition are known to some extent; however, no comprehensive or multidimensional picture is currently available. The present thesis employs three perspectives when exploring functioning and disability in the target group. The first perspective, the 'Researcher perspective', consists of a systematic review presented in two separate studies (studies I and II). The second perspective, the 'Professional perspective', engages hearing health professionals worldwide in a cross-sectional web-based survey (study III). The third perspective, the 'Patient perspective', employs a focus group methodology with adults with HL in two countries (study IV). When merging the three perspectives, it is evident that functioning and disability in the target group are a multidimensional phenomenon but with a significant focus on interactions. Two models are developed: 'the integrative model of functioning and disability in adults with hearing loss' and 'the elaborated person-centered model for audiological rehabilitation'. The first model displays the results in the ICF framework and can be used in theoretical or educational situations. The second model is an elaboration of an established model and discusses the research findings in an audiological rehabilitation perspective. The present thesis also discusses the ICF in relation to the present research field and makes suggestions to consider in future revisions of the ICF.

ISSN 1650-1128  
ISBN 978-91-7529-086-7



SARAH GRANBERG Functioning and Disability in Adults with Hearing Loss

Doctoral Dissertation

# Functioning and Disability in Adults with Hearing Loss

## Preparatory studies in the ICF Core Sets for Hearing Loss project

SARAH GRANBERG  
*Disability Science*



SARAH GRANBERG Functioning and Disability in Adults with Hearing Loss

STUDIES FROM THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY RESEARCH 73

2015

Studies from The Swedish Institute for Disability Research 73