Soundscapes and (dis)able bodies

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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.

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Abstract: Soundscapes and (dis)able bodies
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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.