



## **Respeaking at Live Events – Audience Members Needed**

### **The Project**

Respeaking is the process of using speech recognition software to create live subtitles. It's often used to subtitle TV programmes like the news and sports shows, but it isn't used as widely in live events at the moment. I am researching how respeaking can best be used to subtitle live events, including Q&A sessions, museum walking tours, music events, presentations and conferences...

Last summer, I sent out a detailed questionnaire to find out more about how the deaf and hard of hearing audience access television through live subtitles and to learn what their priorities would be when live subtitles created through respeaking are used at events. I have also run focus groups with speakers of English as an additional language to find out whether they can also benefit from subtitles at live events, since once displayed, the subtitles are available for the whole audience to use.

Respeakers and venues provide a key role within this service and their needs must also be met. I have worked closely with them to find out about the challenges that events may pose and how these can be met.

All of this culminated in a training programme in July, designed to enable responders to transfer their skills to the live event setting. We are now running a series of research events to test out respeaking in this new setting and that is where I need your help. We need audience members to participate in the events and provide feedback on the access that was provided.

I'm hoping that one of those audience members may be you!

The four research events will run from late summer through to the end of October and have been designed to test respeaking in a variety of settings - and to pose some challenges for the respeakers! They will include presentations, music, videos, Q&A, performance and a walking tour. And that is where I need your help again - I'm looking for audience members to come along, take part in the event and then share their thoughts and feedback on the access provided.

If you would like to find out more about being an audience member, email me at [Moorez1@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:Moorez1@roehampton.ac.uk) so that I can send you details about each event. If you are able to attend all four events, that would be wonderful; depending on numbers, it may also be possible to attend one or two events. Do get in touch and then I can answer any questions you may have about taking part.

These initial events are all in the London and Surrey area. In early 2018, there will be a second round of events I want some of these to be held in other locations around the UK so that more of you can attend. I will be organising those in the coming weeks, so please do contact me to suggest venues near you or to put me in touch with venues you think would be interested in hosting an event.

Have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing some of you over the next few months.

Best wishes,

Zoe

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