

Interview Alex Garcia Deafblind Person

1. Did you know about Social-Haptic Communication? What's your opinion about it?

Yes. I've known about Social-Haptic Communication since 2005 in the 8th Hellen Keller World Conference that took place in Tampere – Finland. For me the importance of Social-Haptic Communication is evident in the life and relations of a deafblind person. Therefore, this communication comes to support and expand the complex relation and quality of life we have.

2. What are the biggest difficulties of the deafblind person?

Our biggest difficulties are the distance and the impatience that our society presents nowadays. Each day people are more distant from one another and each day more impatient. Distance and impatience are the real fears of the deafblind, because how are we going to communicate in distance if our communicative essence is proximal? And how are going to communicate with all this impatience if our communicative essence is less fast? I don't know how to erase and/or decelerate these fears, what remains to me is to question.

3. Do you believe that the proposed system could help in these difficulties?

Yes, because it's evident that the system comes to expand our relations.

4. What was your impression when using the haptic vest?

The impression was great. It's something pioneer that we don't have in Brazil, and if I'm not wrong, doesn't exist in the world. I'm a fan of pioneering. I have numerous pioneer actions. The pioneer being, the pioneer action, they break paradigms and this is fundamental to the development.

5. Would the information about the interlocutor's facial expressions, transmitted by the haptic vest, have any influence in the deafblind user's communication?

For me the influence of the information about the facial expressions is extremely positive because: a) I don't recall any communication used by deafblind that has this

intention – so it's an addition. b) For me, being able to receive information about the interlocutor's facial expression would mean to be able to expand my observations in a more critical way – we know the body "says" that which the words try to "hide".

6. What do you think about the presented solution? Do you believe the developed system solves the proposed problem?

I believe in the breaking of paradigms, in something that comes to add. Therefore, this system has all the potential to solve and expand our relations.

7. How do you see the project in the future?

I see the project expanded, with many haptic signals, and being used by deafblind people.

8. What could be added to the project?

Let's analyze the meaning of haptic, which means "related to touch". The system could try to create tactile perception of the alphabet.