

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Rachel Kolb has been profoundly deaf since birth and grew up using both American Sign Language and English. Rachel received her B.A. and M.A. in English literature from Stanford University before heading to the University of Oxford to study English and Higher Education as a Rhodes scholar. She is now a Ph.D. student in English literature at Emory University, where her academic work explores how ideas about deafness, sound, and communication arise in nineteenth and twentieth century American literature. Rachel has published essays in venues ranging from Stanford magazine to The New York Times and The Atlantic, and has also presented about Deaf-related issues at several conferences across the country, including TEDx Stanford, the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) conference, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) annual meeting, and the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) national conference.