## Communications Disabilities: Alternative Communication

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Communication Sciences & Disorders  
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Research Interests  
Augmentative and alternative communication for individuals with severe expressive communication disorders, autism, listeners’ comprehension of synthetic speech, and assessment and intervention for individuals with severe disabilities with challenging behaviors.

**Thomas Frank**  
Professor  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
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Research Interests  
Classroom acoustics, noise-induced and hearing loss due to aging, understanding speech in noise, psychoacoustics, and objective methods of hearing testing.

**Janice Light**  
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Communication Sciences & Disorders  
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Research Interests  
Improving communication outcomes and enhancing quality of life for individuals who have significant speech and language impairments and require augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) (e.g., signs, communication boards, voice output assistive technologies).

**Elina Mainela-Arnold**  
Assistant Professor  
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Research Interests  
Cognitive mechanisms involved in language acquisition, the way in which these mechanisms interact with environmental input, and how this interaction might help explain individual differences with language ability, especially in individuals with low language abilities, such as children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI). Relationship between working memory and lexical frequency distributions, children's ability to extract and store regularities in verbal and nonverbal input, children's problem solving strategies revealed in speech and gesture.

**Robert Prosek**  
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Research Interests  
Perception of voice disorders, intelligibility of speech in noise, interactions between speech production and speech perception.