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**Kolloquiumsreihe**

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# Advanced Interaction Analysis – act4teams®

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Over the last half century, the investigation of interaction in groups has become an important academic pursuit in several disciplines, including Social Psychology, Management Studies, Sociology, and Communication, among other fields. My focus is on investigating how teams interact in optimization situations and the outcomes/consequences of that interaction. Interaction analysis allows close examination of the actual communication that occurs in these groups. It can take a variety of forms but is often based in observational coding of communicative text for the purpose of quantitative analysis (see Weingart, Olekalns, & Smith, 2006). Indeed there are some coding schemes available to study argumentation, conflict, decision-making, valence of comments, interaction structures, relational interaction, among a variety of other communicative aspects of groups (see Frey & Sunwolf 2005 for a more detailed list). Frequently, instruments for interaction analysis have never left the research context or have been replaced by more economic questionnaire tools in the field. Many studies are restricted to a rather small number of groups, which limits the possibilities for statistical evaluation. Moreover, many studies have used laboratory or student groups – thus limiting the generalizability of the findings. Thepaper addresses this issue by presenting a coding schemes for analyzing different aspects of human interaction, all of which have been psychometrically validated and applied extensively in research and practice.

- Constructs measured with the coding scheme
- Derivation of observation categories from the literature
- Illustration of coding procedure and analysis
- Application examples: research findings obtained with the coding scheme.
- Using act4teams in practise