

### **Interaction types across helping professions – Differences, similarities and interferences of communicative tasks**

This panel offers up-to-date research on communicative practices within and across traditional and less traditional helping professions: Whereas medical and psychotherapeutic communication are by now well-established objects of research in discourse analysis and applied linguistics, so-called developmental formats like executive coaching or life coaching have only lately attracted linguistic attention. Yet, research on both traditional and less traditional formats revolves around similar questions such as their endemic communicative core of practices. Furthermore, a closer look at professional practice offers a highly differentiated picture of these helping professional formats with numerous sub-types, transitions and hybrid formats.

Although a systematic comparison of prototypical formats *as a whole* is not purposeful given their interactional diversity, it does seem beneficial to give an overview of interaction types across helping professions with regard to differences and similarities of *specific communicative tasks*.

In particular, there is a need for process-oriented analysis and clarification with respect to

- the *differing communicative tasks* identified in the *sub-types* of these formats: within doctor-patient communication for example, the sub-type ‘anamnesic interview’ differs substantially from ‘diagnostic clarification’ or ‘palliative interview’. Within the format of coaching, the sub-type of process-oriented executive coaching differs decisively from solution-oriented executive coaching.
- the *similar communicative tasks* identified *across helping professional formats* and the resulting *hybrid formats*: doctor-patient communication may contain coaching-sequences when patients’ life-style is discussed, a service that has recently been established as a proper format under the name of “medical coaching”, while at the same time there is “health coaching” as a new buzz word on the coaching market; in executive coaching, managers’ professional and entrepreneurial concerns are dealt with holistically via psychotherapeutic interventions, while more and more psychotherapists offer (executive) coaching services.
- *interferences resulting from differences and similarities of communicative tasks across the various formats and their sub-types*. Interactants’ differing expectations with regard to the specific interaction type and the communicative practices as well as the resulting asymmetry on the cognitive, emotional and interactive level often lead to misunderstanding and subtle friction: for example, patients in pre-operative anesthetic interviews expect mainly information on risks and possible negative consequences, while doctors look out for information on premedication and try to achieve a legally binding informed consent.

We invite papers that focus on 1) *interaction-type and process-oriented basic research that describes communicative tasks in interaction types across helping professions* and thus lays the foundation for a pragma-linguistic interaction typology that considers both prototypical formats and hybrid formats, 2) *applied analysis* of communicative consequences and possible challenges that result from differing expectations with regard to communicative tasks in interaction types across helping professions and 3) *practical applications* of linguistic findings with respect to communicative tasks in interaction types across helping professions in discourse-analytically based training modules for (future) professionals.