

**The meeting genre across cultures:
Insights from three German-American collaborations**

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Abstract

The current study examines cross-cultural differences in norms for meetings. Following Eisenhardt (1989), we used a broad set of conceptual dimensions for analyzing meetings as a genre of organizational communication (Yates & Orlikowski, 2002) to guide a within-case and cross-case analysis of meetings in two cultures. Our goal was to discover the possible existence of patterns and interpretations within cultures, and contrasts and explanations across cultures. Data from three different datasets were analyzed, encompassing a total of ten teams each with German and U.S.-American subgroups. Findings show that Germans and U.S.-Americans have different expectations and practices concerning the purpose, content, structure, and timing of meetings, and the roles of participants. The underlying meaning of these differences is explored. Theoretical and practical contributions of the work are discussed.