

# Research Methods for Groups and Teams

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*A reference for studying groups and teams — the broadest methods palette in the field. Curated from the Small Group Research (SGR) methodology literature, organized into six method families.*

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### The six method families

Pick the family that fits your research question, then drill into the exemplars.

#### 1. Reviews, scoping reviews, bibliometrics & meta-analyses

For synthesizing or mapping a literature.

- **Carter et al. (2019)** — Schmidt–Hunter random-effects meta-analysis of team design (428 samples).
- **Emich et al. (2020)** — 50-year keyword-co-occurrence bibliometric of the SGR corpus.
- **Jackson (2025)** — *prospecting review* of computational small-groups modeling (a newer review genre).
- **PRISMA exemplars:** Reinert et al. (2025), van Rijswijk et al. (2024), Moffat (2025, scoping).

#### 2. Response Surface Methodology & multilevel SEM

For congruence/incongruence and curvilinear hypotheses.

- **Bonito (2022)** — GAPIM → Multilevel SEM extension + power simulation (a pure methods paper).
- **Vahle-Hinz et al. (2024)** — Multilevel Response Surface Analysis (MRSA).

#### 3. Social Network Analysis

For relational/structural questions.

- **Sahoo et al. (2024)** — round-robin design; inclusion and exclusion as separate constructs.
- **Roth & Doehne (2024)** — natural-experiment full-roster SNA.

#### 4. Behavioral observation, coding & multimodal analysis

For studying interaction "in the wild."

- **act4teams** coding scheme (Allen & Lehmann-Willenbrock, Berg et al.).
- **Klonek et al. (2020)** — the Communication Analysis Tool (free, browser-based live coding).

#### 5. Computational text analysis

For language and digital traces.

- **Pilny et al. (2025)** — RNN vs. transformer (DistilBERT) benchmark for classifying group dialogue.
- **Müller-Frommeyer & Kauffeld (2022)** — dynamic Language Style Matching (exposes the static-LSM artifact).

## 6. Innovative experimental & quasi-experimental designs

For causal claims in lab/field.

- **Müller et al. (2022)** — algorithmic group-formation field experiment.
- **Game/simulation platforms as labs:** Overcooked (Feitosa 2024), Second Life CVE (Massey 2024).

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## Rigor practices worth adopting (from across the cluster)

- PRISMA reporting · Cohen's  $\kappa$  interrater reliability · ICC +  $r_{wg}$  aggregation justification (and its limits)
- Time-lagged / multi-wave designs · cluster-robust SEs for nested data · OSF code/data deposits
- **Ingels et al. (2023)** — survey-nonresponse caveat:  $r_{wg}$ /ICC can look fine while masking *who* responded.

Source: SGR "Methodology in Groups and Teams" cluster (93 sources).

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