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**The problem with problematic situations: differences between situations, tasks and practices as units of analysis**

This presentation discusses the differences between three different analytic core concepts: situation, task and practice. These are foundational concepts for the analysis and representation of the context of information use in work and everyday life. It is generally agreed that information activities should be studied in the contexts which provide the reasons and aims for action. Situations, tasks and practices are alternative ways for conceptualizing the context of information activities. Although practice theory, task theory, and person-in-situation theories currently are competitors that guide researchers to carve out and describe their research objects and populations in divergent and incompatible ways, we can also understand and define these concepts in a fruitful manner within an integrated theoretical framework, the practice theory.

The practice theory is a theoretical framework within which both situations and tasks can be understood as distinct parts of a specific activity setting.