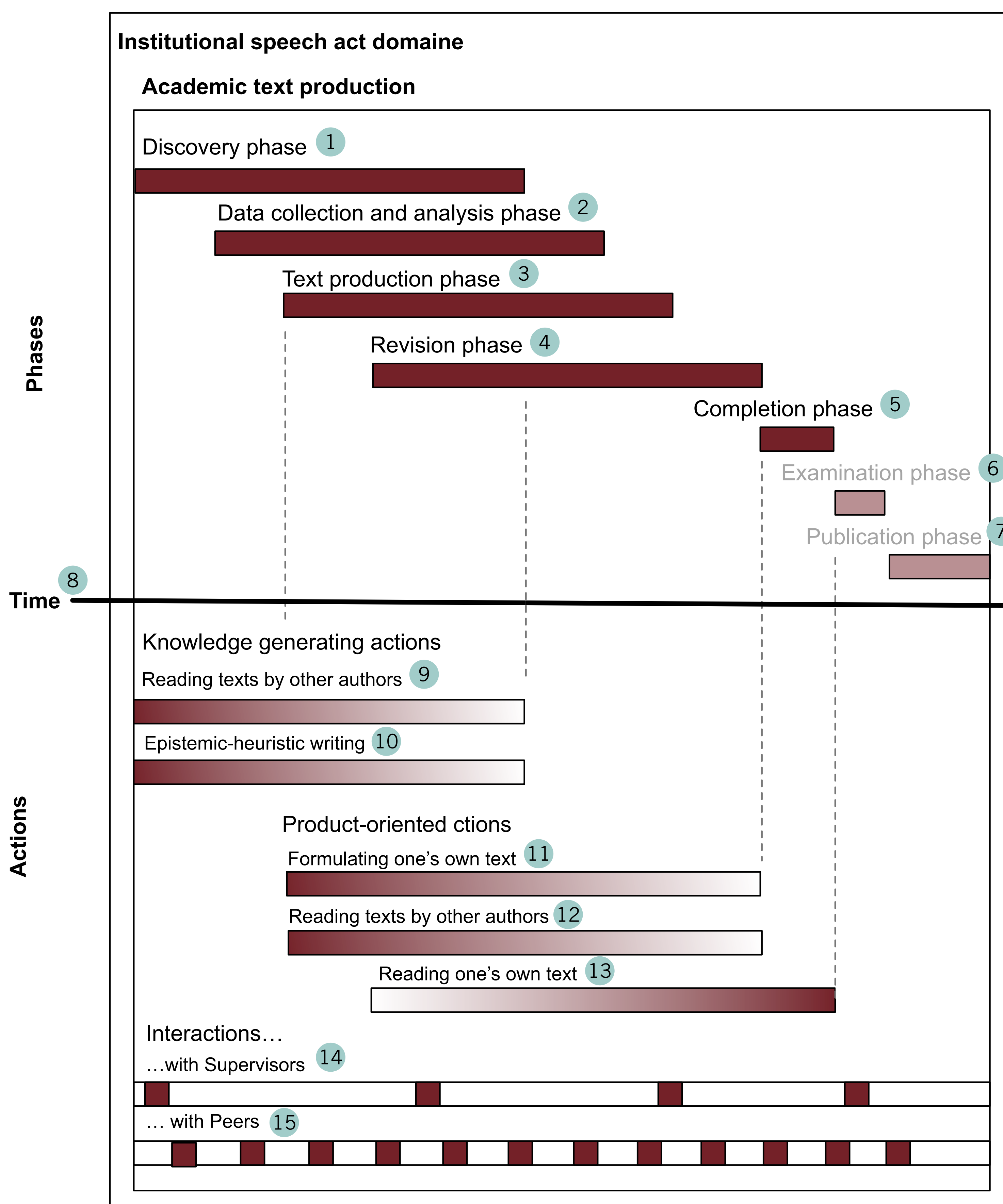# The Cascade Model of Academic Text Production –

Phases and Actions (Knorr 2018)

Goal Manage one's own writing actions in a productive way using reflection.

Prerequisite People who are able to identify their position in the process (phase and point in time) can purposefully choose the action that is necessary for the completion of the next subtask in the writing project.

Theory Academic text production entails multiple phases which overlap. The length of said phases varies, they do however end in the sequence specified below. The discovery (or initial) phase can, for example, continue until the revision phase nears its end. This phase cannot continue past that point. Reading, writing and talking are basic actions of academic text production, which serve different purposes. For instance, new knowledge can be generated through writing. The texts that are written for knowledge acquisition are, however, usually NOT part of the text that is handed in.

Institutional speech act domaine

Academic text production

Phases

- Discovery phase 1
- Data collection and analysis phase 2
- Text production phase 3
- Revision phase 4
- Completion phase 5
- Examination phase 6
- Publication phase 7

Time 8

Actions

Knowledge generating actions
- Reading texts by other authors 9
- Epistemic-heuristic writing 10

Product-oriented ctions
- Formulating one's own text 11
- Reading texts by other authors 12
- Reading one's own text 13

Interactions…
- …with Supervisors 14
- … with Peers 15

Characteristics of the Phases

1 Balancing between thinking in breadth and simultaneously focusing on a manageable question

2 Decisions with regard to methodology must be made, even though the goal/research question might not be completely clear yet

3 Balancing between the necessity of committing to something (through writing something down) and the desire to keep one's options open

4 Depending on the writer type: Ranging from almost non-existent to being very pronounced

5 Not to be underestimated: Preparing the document for printing (cover page, generating the table of contents, etc.).

6 Grading of the text and possibly including an oral defense

7 The publication phase is part of the doctoral thesis process (note the difference between monograph and cumulative thesis)

8 **Time**
Always seems to pass more quickly before handing in; self-consciousness and doubts increase when the deadline approaches

Purposes of Actions

9 … to acquire knowledge; to gain an overview

10 … to create new knowledge, to sort out one's own thoughts, etc.

11 … to produce (submittable) text

12 … to revisit knowledge that one intends to use

13 … to compare the current state with the intended state of the text

14 … to discuss the reference framework, to reassure oneself

15 … to clarify one's thoughts, get emotional support, get feedback on parts of the text, etc.

Literature
Knorr, Dagmar (2016): Modell „Phasen und Handlungen akademischer Textproduktion". Eine Visualisierung zur Beschreibung von Textproduktionsprojekten. In: Ballweg, Sandra (Hrsg.): Schreibzentrumsarbeit: Theorie, Empirie, Praxis. Frankfurt/Main u. a.: Lang [Wissen – Kompetenz – Text; 11], 251–273
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