

**A01** Ricardo / Columbia / Computer Science

Interaction partner(s): German lecturers

Moment of enquiry: WS 08/09

Experience of difference: Role expectations towards lecturers

Ricardo from Columbia studies Computer Science at a German university. In his seminars he notices that the lecturers often interrupt their lectures and ask the students questions or prompt them to enter into a discussion. Ricardo is annoyed at this time-wasting. The students know a lot less about the subject than the lecturer. Therefore they cannot possibly contribute anything of value and it is completely superfluous to ask them at all. Ricardo does not understand why the lecturer continually asks the students to comment and waste so much time on pointless discussions.

1. How might Ricardo's annoyance be explained?
2. Which university traditions might be behind the behaviour of German lecturers? What are the lecturers trying to achieve with their questions?