

### A03 Maryvonne / France / History

Interaction partner(s): German female lecturer  
Moment of enquiry: WS 08/09  
Experience of difference: Role expectations towards students

Maryvonne is a French exchange student who would like to spend part of her studies in Germany. She is taking a course on the history of Franco-German relations, as she is very interested in the topic. During the first class, the lecturer gives an introduction to the topic and asks the students questions regarding their prior knowledge and attitudes. Many students offer their opinions and share what they know about Franco-German relations. Finally the lecturer asks Maryvonne directly to present her knowledge and assessment of the topic. Maryvonne is taken by surprise, and somewhat unnerved. She can't get a word out, although her German language skills are rather good. From French seminars, she is not used to stating her opinion freely, and she would prefer to remain in the role of a listener in this seminar as well. However, as the German lecturer tries to coax a comment out of Maryvonne throughout the course of the seminar, the French student feels harassed and stops attending the event.

1. What could be preventing Maryvonne from participating in the seminar discussion?
2. What does the German lecturer expect from the French student? Why does she ask Maryvonne so many questions?