

A08 Nina / Russia / Foreign Languages in Adult Education

Interaction partner(s): German students
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Role expectations towards students

Nina, a Russian student, is studying for her master's degree at a German university. In the seminars, she notices that the German students seek to speak immediately when they think the lecturer is wrong or has not sufficiently explained a matter, and they state their opinions openly. Nina considers the way the German students talk to the lecturers rude. At her university in Russia, this is not customary, and it's actually unthinkable to disagree with or correct a lecturer, especially a professor. If anything, disagreement or comments may be voiced among fellow students, as the lecturer is an authority figure whom one does not contradict out of respect. Nina would never dare correct or criticise an authority figure at the university. She'd be afraid to annoy the lecturer and leave a negative impression.

1. What are Nina's ideas regarding the relationship between lecturer and students?
2. What significance do critical comments have in German lectures?