

C11 José / Mexico / Course of studies unknown

Interaction partner(s): Two German students
Moment of enquiry: SS 09
Experience of difference: Discussion styles in project groups

José, a Mexican student, is enrolled at a German university for one year. In one seminar, he is supposed to prepare a project together with two German students. The three students split the work and meet again after a week to compare their results. The Mexican student has put a lot of effort into his work and is convinced that his contribution to the joint project is good. But when they each compare their work, the German students notice some methodical inaccuracies in José's work, and one of them points it out directly: "But you can't really do it that way!" José is outraged about the direct criticism of his work and leaves the project group insulted.

1. What effect does the criticism from the German fellow students have on José? How might he have interpreted it?
2. How might the communication style of the German students be explained?