

D54 Jürgen / Germany / Course of studies unknown

Interaction partner(s): two Indian students

Moment of enquiry: SS 08

Experience of difference: Boundaries and communalities in student dorms

Jürgen, a German student, shares an apartment with two Indian students, Kasi and Mahesh. Jürgen has a pair of slippers, which he usually puts in the joint shoe corner when he leaves the house. Every time Kasi or Mahesh invite their Indian friends over, the guests consider it normal to use all the slippers that are accessible to everyone in the shoe corner. The guests put on the slippers to go to the bathroom or into the kitchen, so their socks don't get dirty. When Jürgen finds out about it, he is annoyed that other people are using his things. After all, they are his property, and he points that out to his Indian roommates. Kasi and Mahesh are surprised by Jürgen's reaction. After all, the slippers were not in his room, but in the apartment, accessible to all.

1. What annoys Jürgen, and what are his ideas of property?
2. What might explain the Indian students' behaviour?