Campus News
01/2026

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOANALYTIC UNIVERSITY BERLIN

The new year at IPU Berlin begins with a renowned new addition to the team. The latest episode of the *50 Minuten* podcast addresses the misleading public perception of psychosis. You can otherwise read about exciting events and a wide range of advanced studies and trainings in 2026.

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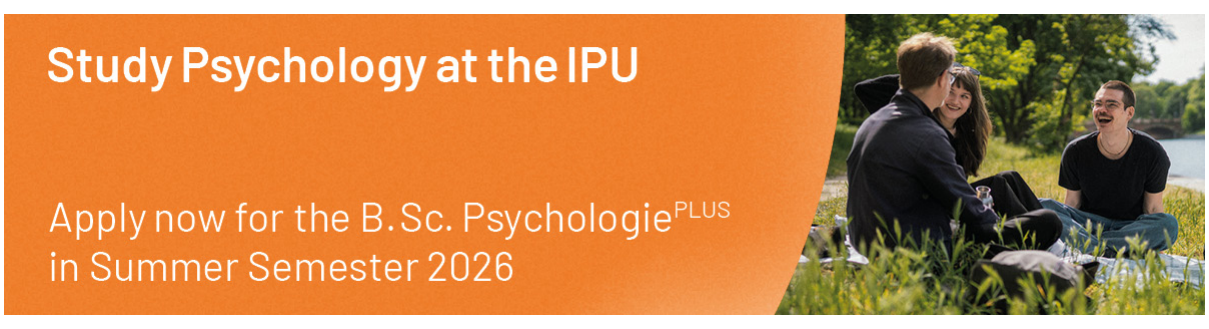
From Bochum to Berlin

IPU Berlin is proud to announce that, as of this month, the Hans Kilian and Lotte Köhler Center (KKC) has established a presence at IPU. Under the direction of Prof. Dr. Jürgen Straub and Dr. Pradeep Chakkarath, the KKC will enrich the IPU's academic offerings and, through its closer physical proximity, strengthen the already fruitful collaboration between the two institutions. This will benefit not only doctoral candidates in the IPU-KKC Graduate School but also students in the master's program **Psychoanalytische Kulturwissenschaft und Kulturpsychologie**, which launched in October.

The IPU-KKC Symposium will take place on 29 January at 12 pm, offering a critical reflection on the current state of (cultural) psychology and psychoanalysis. You can find more information about this event **on our website**.



Apply Now for an IPU Program for the Summer Semester 2026

Applications are still open to those who would like to begin their studies at IPU Berlin in April. The BSc Psychology PLUS and the part-time MA Interdisciplinary Psychosis Therapy (which has its own info webinar on 12 February) always start in the summer semester. We will answer all questions about studying at IPU Berlin during our **online information event** on 29 January 2026. Information about the application process can be found **on our website**.

Podcast *50 Minuten* on Psychosis

There are many misconceptions and prejudices about psychosis. In the latest episode of the podcast 50 Minuten, host Daniel Jakubowski is joined by psychosis expert Prof. Dr. Dorothea von Haebler to dissect what we can consider to be proven knowledge about the phenomenon. The episode (in German) is available on all streaming platforms as well as **on our website**.

The IPU mourns the passing of Prof. Cord Benecke and Prof. Micha Brumlik

Cord Benecke, Professor at the University of Kassel and a psychoanalyst, passed away at the end of December 2025 at the age of 60. The IPU Berlin mourns the loss of a valued colleague who was closely connected to the university through personal ties and research activities. An obituary can be found **on our website**.

In November 2025, the IPU Berlin also mourned the death of Prof. Micha Brumlik. He had close ties to our university, including as a lecturer. Read more about Micha Brumlik's work in **in our Spotlight**.

Events

29 January 2026 | 12 pm

Zur Lage der (Kultur-)Psychologie und (kulturwissenschaftlichen) Psychoanalyse

IPU-KKC-Symposium at the IPU Berlin.

Register **on our website**.

29 January 2026 | 5 pm

Online information event for prospective students

Register **on our website**.

13 February 2026 | 12 pm

Webinar about the MA Interdisciplinary Psychosis Therapy

With Prof. Dorothea von Haebler

Register **on our website**.

Are you planning or organizing an IPU Berlin event?

Use our new form in the InfoCenter to register your event. All links and information **can be found here**.

13 till 15 March 2026

Improvisation und Partizipation – unerhörte Elemente therapeutischer Gespräche

Annual conference by the IPU-affiliated institute JUNKTIM e. V.

Further information **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE

15 April 2026 | 6 pm

Inaugural lecture by Prof. Thorsten Peetz

Further information on our website soon.

9 May 2026 | 10 am

IPU Open Day

Get to know the IPU: lectures, campus tours and service offers

Further information **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE

6 June 2026 | 5 pm

Long Night of Sciences 2026

Program and information on our website soon.

Gerta in plain language

The January column by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz

Recently, there was a report in the media that classic works are increasingly being read and studied in "plain language" at Berlin high schools, for which textbooks have been modified accordingly. Goethe's Faust in plain language for university entrance qualifications? I find it incomprehensible that a renowned textbook publisher such as Cornelsen is boasting about this, and I am struggling to keep my currently elevated indignation in check.

Certainly, complex content requires skillful didactic reduction for teaching purposes, but does that justify tampering with original sources? It may well be appropriate to discuss texts section by section that are perhaps more difficult to understand today, to vary the order of acts or scenes in a drama, to place expressions that are no longer familiar in their historical context, or to refer to particular stylistic elements, but to "simplify" the literary texts themselves, perhaps even taking the opportunity to introduce gendering? And in the case of poems or ballads that

use specific rhyme forms, such a thing would be unthinkable. And how should traditional music be handled? For example, if a Beethoven symphony sounds too complicated because the score contains too many notes, or in art class, if, for example, a few apostles are simply omitted from a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" because having twelve is too confusing?

Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz *has been President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin since July 2021. Once a month, he provides commentary here on contemporary, timeless, psychoanalytic and political issues.*

It is an illusion to think that artistic works from past eras can be made accessible to children or young people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds or with a migrant background in this way. If their cultural and aesthetic substance is tampered with, they are robbed of their form and expressive power. In the end, this is likely to widen the gap between children from privileged homes and those who are denied this advantage. At best, it could be productive to compare the "simplified" version of a work with the original and show how great the loss is. Education requires us to engage with standards in order to rise to them, not to lower them for our benefit. In this way, cultural heritage (by which I in no way mean only German or European heritage) is made subservient to a modest horizon, which goes beyond the school's claim to open it up and broaden it.

But I am lamenting a general trend here; primary schools in Lower Saxony will no longer teach written division, and the Berlin police recently distributed rulers to schoolchildren as part of road safety education, on which the 15 cm scale was printed at a length of 15.3 cm, and they justified this by saying that it was simply for advertising purposes.

A Warm Welcome to the IPU Berlin

The IPU Berlin is delighted to welcome some new faces to campus: **Jumaa-Alexandar Prvulovic-Jones** began his role as Head of Facility Management in January. **Dr Simeon Reusch** also became the new Head of IT in January 2026. In addition, **Andrea Nejad** joined the Communications team this month as a marketing expert.

Konstantin Piotraschke is the new research assistant working with Prof. Dr. Christian Sell.

With the establishment of the KKC at IPU Berlin, **Pradeep Chakkarath** (acting professor), **Ines Gottschalk** (coordinator of the graduate college), and **Franziska Seipelt** (administration) also officially began working with us in January.

Current job openings, including for student assistants, can be found regularly on our website.

Missing something?

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our newsletter. We welcome topic suggestions, criticism, and ideas **by email**. Empfehlen Sie unseren Newsletter gern weiter. Please feel free to recommend our newsletter to others. You can **subscribe here**.