

IPU Summer School 2022

The Future Now?! Interdisciplinary Psychological Perspectives on Global Ruptures, Challenges and Actions

Scholarships available
27 June – 8 July 2022



Dear Newsletter Subscribers,

here you can find current information, upcoming **Events** as well as a monthly **Column** by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz.

Prof. Dr. Mark Solms and **Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Fuchs** met recently for the first installment of the International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series to speak about “The Hard Problem of Consciousness”. You can watch the recording of this event, led by Prof. Andreas Hamburger, [on the IPU Berlin YouTube channel](#).

Prof. Dr. Lutz Wittmann is involved in a study on the psychological effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the results of which were recently published. You can find more detailed information [in our IPU Spotlight](#).

We'd like to remind you again of the **doctoral scholarships** that are currently open for applications: All who are interested in completing a doctorate investigating psychoanalytic themes can apply for a scholarship from the Foundation for the Promotion of University Psychoanalysis **until 18 March 2022**. You can find the full announcement [in the IPU Spotlight](#).

The International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series 2022–2023

Now online

First webinar with Prof. Thomas Fuchs & Prof. Mark Solms



News from the International Office

The annual IPU Summer School takes place this year from 27 June to 8 July with the title “The Future Now?! Interdisciplinary Psychological Perspectives on Global Ruptures, Challenges and Actions”.

International scholars and students will project potential future scenarios that today's technological, environmental, political and social issues and problems can bring out, and explore how to reshape such future scenarios in the present. In a multifaceted program consisting of lectures, workshops, discussions and excursions, participants will engage with the main topics including thinking about the future, health challenges, global inequalities and climate change.

The course fee of the summer school amounts to 440 EUR. **Scholarships are available** to reimburse the course fee. Application deadline for the scholarship is **1 April 2022**. For more information, please visit [our Summer School webpage](#).

Events

27 June – 8 July 2022

The Future Now?! Interdisciplinary Psychological Perspectives on Global Ruptures, Challenges and Actions

IPU Summer School 2022 | Scholarships available

Register [on our website](#).

Save the Date

2 July 2022

Long Night of the Sciences 2022

Joint programme of the IPU Berlin together with the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institutes.

Further information on our website soon.

13 July 2022

Second webinar in the context of the International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series

with Prof. Heidi Levitt, Prof. Sharon Horne and Prof. Phil C. Langer

Further information on our website soon.

Therapy Based on Percentages

The **February column** from IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz

This time, I don't have an entertaining topic to write about. Rather, I have one with the keyword “depression” – because it exemplifies as well as triggers. It has to do with the availability of psychotherapy treatment, which German satirist Jan Böhmermann discussed recently in his weekly late night show *ZDF Magazin Royale*.

At the moment, the IPU is contesting the decision by the Berlin Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians against supporting the IPU's new training institute (WIPU). It has been well designed by the university and has long been accredited by the Berlin State Office for Health and Social Affairs. WIPU is only missing the approval for billing with health insurance providers. It was denied based on the current oversupply of psychotherapists in Berlin – apparently around 170 percent.

That brings up some questions. Who decided what number of psychotherapists makes up 100 percent in the first place, and what criteria are required to consider the supply as “meeting demands”? It seems puzzling to a layman like me that such a supposed “oversupply” leads to long waiting lists for an open therapy spot even in Berlin, aside from the fact that waiting is hardly the best course of action if someone is suffering from psychological distress. And what role does training play in all of this, considering that, without a sufficient number of qualified newcomers, this situation will tend to intensify over time rather than improve.

Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz has been president of the IPU Berlin since July 2021.

Once a month, he provides commentary here on contemporary, timeless,

psychoanalytic and political issues.



Aside from this, I ask myself whether the currently approved psychotherapists are actually all equally capable, also organizationally, of handling the whole spectrum of diagnoses or symptomatic situations. In addition to statistical indications, shouldn't essential specializations also be considered, perhaps for cases of serious, possibly suicidal personality disorders (especially in childhood and adolescence), bulimia or certain psychiatric findings?

It's also noteworthy to consider the critical breadth of treatment availability throughout the Berlin districts – from around 90 percent in Marzahn-Hellersdorf to over 350 percent (!) in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. How does this fact correspond with socioeconomic as well as cultural backgrounds? On the basis of these numbers alone, it could all too quickly give the impression that the need for psychotherapy has something to do with one's lifestyle. If one replaces “lifestyle” with, for example, the pressure to achieve and fear of failure, isolation or identity crisis, it quickly becomes apparent that psychotherapeutic needs should not be taken any less seriously. One cannot only define them quantitatively, but must also employ qualitative criteria as well.

In the times of the pandemic, the situation has been exacerbated and the need to have this debate is increasingly critical – first of all, for all of those countless people who need psychotherapy and are hoping to be helped by it.