

Dear subscribers,

here you will find current information from the IPU Berlin, information on upcoming **Events** and the monthly **Column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

The German Council of Science and Humanities recently reaccredited the IPU Berlin and recommended that the Berlin Senate Administration grant it the right to award doctorates.

This marks a milestone in the IPU's development as a university. At a celebratory get-together, the IPU President Jan-Hendrik Olbertz thanked all those who have contributed over the years to obtaining the right to award doctorates. Further information can be found in **a press release from the German Council of Science and Humanities**.

IPU's International Career Service

Become a clinical practitioner in Germany.
Learn how on our website.



The **application window** for studying at the IPU Berlin starting in the summer semester 2025 is still open **until 16 March**. Our **Bachelor of Science PsychologyPLUS** and the part-time Master of Arts **Interdisciplinary Psychosis Therapy** will start in April. Those interested can find more information **on our website**.

An **endowed professorship for cultural studies with a focus on linguistic and literary social analysis** is currently being advertised at the IPU Berlin. Applications are open until 20 March. Further information **can be found in our call for applications (in German)**.

Our cooperation partners at the **KKC Bochum**, along with the Society for Cultural Psychology, are awarding the **Ernst E. Boesch Prize for Cultural Psychology 2025**. The prize honors merits in the promotion and dissemination of scientific cultural psychology. Nominations for this prize can be made **until 31 March**. Further information can be found **in the announcement**.

In our Spotlight you can read about current publications, including those by our research associate **Johanna L. Klinge**, **Aaron Lahl** and **Prof. Christine Kirchhoff**. Find out more **on our website**.

All members of the academic staff at IPU Berlin can use the internal research area of the InfoCenter **to inform the university public about academic activities or news from the scientific operation**. Please use **this form** for announcements.

Create reach for your posts on social media

Whenever you are active on social networks such as *Instagram* or *LinkedIn*, mention the IPU Berlin accounts, on LinkedIn for example by adding **@International Psychoanalytic University Berlin**. This will increase the visibility of your posts. You can access our accounts via the linked icons at the bottom of the newsletter.

Events

In March and April 2025 at the IPU Berlin

Bridging Courses for current or prospective students interested in psychology

With Leon Brenner (Introduction to Psychoanalysis) and Nicolás Lorenzini (Clinical Psychology, Research Methods).

Dates and registration **on our website**.

25 till 27 April 2025 in Aarhus (Denmark)

EGATIN Study Days: »Working with polarization«

Conference organised by the European Group Analytic Training Institution Network and the Berliner Institut für Gruppenanalyse.

More Information can be found **here**.

16 May 2025 | 10 am till 1:30 pm | Hörsaal 2

Career Day – Psychology beyond Approbation

The international Career Service invites all IPU students and alumni to participate in the Career Day at IPU Berlin. This time, the focus is on psychological professions outside of psychotherapy licensure.

Register **via this form**.

21 May 2025 | 8:15 pm

Anti-Zionism and the post-sexual Revolution

Evening lecture with Prof. Bruno Chaouat organized by the Verein der Freunde und Förderer der IPU Berlin e. V.

Register **on our website**.

Are you planning or organizing an event at the IPU Berlin in 2025?

Use **this form in the InfoCenter**, ideally up to four weeks before the event date. This will ensure that your event is included in the calendar of events and can be promoted in good time.

And a Doctor to boot ...

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

Autonomously run research, teaching, and academic self-renewal, i. e. the promotion of young scholars, have been the core tasks and constitutive principle of a university since the time of Wilhelm von Humboldt.

As part of the IPU's reaccreditation, the German Council of Science and Humanities has now recommended to the Berlin Senate Administration that they grant the IPU the right to award doctorates.

A doctorate (*in German: die Promotion; Latin promotio, meaning “promotion”*) is proof of one's ability to carry out independent, in-depth scientific work in a specific field. On the way there, one is accompanied and supported (“promoted” *in German: “promoviert”*) by an authorized professor – in Germany, commonly called a “doctor-father” or “doctor-mother”. The old university term “alma mater”, meaning “nourishing mother”, fits in with this as well (although here, of course, we are talking about intellectual nourishment). Every professor at the IPU may exercise this right in the future.

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.



Interestingly, as a young scholar one is “awarded” a doctorate, but later, as part of the second major academic examination (to gain a professorship) one “habilitates oneself” (in German, “sich habilitieren”). This reflects the increase in independence and autonomy in academia.

What do we do with this new right? We could offer a doctoral program and place it – alongside the graduate college – at the center of our promotion of young scholars. A combination of psychotherapist training and doctoral work would also be conceivable – an approach that would become an interesting unique selling point among non-state universities. However, there are pros and cons with regard to analytical therapy. Because on one hand – if we dispense with the couch – there would then be a “third chair” in the treatment room (if not outside it), on which the therapist sits as a scientist, while he (or she) should actually be completely oriented towards the patient (as opposed to a test subject) and their suffering. Introspection is part of this concept and so, on the other hand, the knowledge-seeking, researching, generalizing gaze should not necessarily disturb this relationship, as long as it is reflected upon. It was not without reason that Freud considered the “prospects of scientific gain...the noblest and most gratifying characteristic of analytic work” (as he explained in postscript to lay analysis in 1927).

So, as a lay person, I think we should dare to do both – and thus remain unfazed by Faust's famous lament: “Called Master of Arts, and Doctor to boot ... And see that we can know—nothing!”

Valeri Smolko joined the Finance and Human Resources team in February. She now provides support in all personnel matters. **Maren Budke** has also recently started working as a practice manager in our psychotherapy outpatient clinic. **Welcome to the IPU Berlin.**

