

Dear subscribers,

Here you will find the latest updates from IPU Berlin, information on upcoming **events** and the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

The **IPU Berlin 2024 annual conference** titled **Emotions and Affects** will take place from 25 to 27 April. It will focus various perspectives on political psychology. The **IPU professors Thomas Kühn, Phil C. Langer** and **Gavin Sullivan** are organizing the event. Expect insightful discussions with distinguished speakers. You can find a detailed program on our website. **Registration for the conference is already open.**

**Doctoral scholarships** are currently available at the IPU Berlin. The **Foundation to Promote University Psychoanalysis** is supporting emerging researchers, including two doctoral students concurrently undergoing psychotherapy training. The application deadline is 15 April 2024. Further information **on our website.**

This year's **Library Talk** with host **Leon S. Brenner** will once again feature interesting guests. Recently, Brenner spoke with **Julie Reshe** about "Negative Psychoanalysis". You can watch the recording of the talk **on our YouTube channel.**

**IPU senior professor Christiane Ludwig-Körner** recently published a book focusing on the women in Anna Freud's "War Nurseries". Find out more **in our spotlights.**

## Emotions and Affects Perspectives in Political Psychology

The IPU 2024 annual conference  
25 to 27 April 2024

## Events

22 March 2024 | 7 pm

**Library Talk: Negativity in Psychoanalysis**

With Leon S. Brenner, Duane Rousselle and Mark Gerard Murphy

Register **on our website.**

3 April / 14 May / 23 May

**DAAD Online Webinar Series for international students**

IPU's International Office providing information on our two English language programmes.

Further information **on our website.**

12 April 2024 | 7 pm

**Library Talk: The Unwritten Enlightenment**

With Leon S. Brenner and Nathan Gorelick

Register **on our website.**

25. bis 27. April 2024

**Emotions and Affects – Perspectives in Political Psychology**

IPU Berlin 2024 annual conference, organised by Prof. Thomas Kühn, Prof. Phil C. Langer and Prof. Gavin Sullivan.

Register **on our website.**

SAVE THE DATE

11 June 2024 | 5 pm

**IPU information session for prospective students**

Further information on our website soon.

SAVE THE DATE

22 June 2024

**Long Night of the Sciences at the IPU Berlin**

Further information on our website soon.

## Library Talk Negativity in Psychoanalysis

Leon Brenner, Duane Rousselle, Mark Gerard Murphy  
22 March 2024 • 7 pm



## Boomer-Class

The **March column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**

In some recent harmless controversy, the person across from me – much younger than I – gave in with the comment, "OK, Boomer". Okay Boomer? The "okay" certainly didn't sound like agreement there. In the online world, it is considered a "meme", like the punchline of something that isn't said outright. The expression was made popular by New Zealand lawmaker Chlöe Swarbrick, who used it to parry an interruption from an arrogant, older colleague during her speech on climate conservation.

Boomers are, in short, the large group of people, myself included, born *after* the Second World War and *before* the introduction of oral contraceptives. Women of my generation can occasionally still be seen with curlers in their hair, and some even wear aprons (even saying that word out loud these days is a gamble). We men walk around in the summertime in short sleeves, and – even worse – with socks and sandals. Through frameless glasses, we look through faded photo albums. But all those who make fun of Boomers shouldn't forget that many of their freedoms are, for example, thanks to the "68ers", even if youthful rebellions differed between the East and West...in the DDR, I didn't experience much of "Sex, Drugs and Rock'n'Roll" – well, maybe except for the first one.

The *Tagesspiegel* recently attributed "Geriatric Grumbling Against the Zeitgeist" to people like Thomas Gottschalk, Friedrich Merz, or Harald Schmidt, all Boomer-Class like me. What's more, due to our sheer numbers, we are already stuck like a thrombosis in the careers of our offspring, or at least it feels like that. But I also remember feeling the same way in my thirties – not being able to bring my own ideas to fruition because a traditional establishment full of old people was standing in the way.

*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.*



Following Generation X (born until ca. 1980), is Generation Y – the Millennials – who were born shortly before 2000. The pronunciation of Y ("why") also speaks to their propensity for scrutinizing and calling things into question. At the current moment, we are confronted by Generation Z, which justifies its place in the alphabet as being the "last" generation of a failing planet.

Now, we old people also have the right, if not the responsibility, to scrutinize the zeitgeist. After all, the current young generation won't be able to do that for another few decades. What I notice the most about Millennials and the "Y" is that they tend to convert material wealth – which is due not in the least to the Boomers – into immaterial wealth. They create boundaries between work and life and invent expressions from their home offices like "work-life balance", "me time", "downshifting", or "quality time".

Such alternative life plans may bewilder us, but we should use them as a chance to reflect and direct a critical eye to our own. Ultimately, we Boomers approach our jobs as a "work-work balance" all too often and to the detriment of our social relationships, families, and children – not to mention environmental conservation.

Mutual leniency could therefore prove to be a common denominator between the generations. Booming would then be easygoing understanding, not piqued distance.

