

## The International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series 2022–2023

2nd webinar with Heidi Levitt, Sharon Horne, Phil Langer  
9 July 2022 | 3 pm (CEST)



### Dear Newsletter Subscribers,

here you can read about current information, upcoming **events**, and the monthly **column** by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz.

**OEDIPUB** is offering all IPU Berlin students, research associates, and professors the opportunity to publish their articles and studies. Anyone interested should get in touch with project manager Julia Degenhardt. You can find **more information here**.

**We wish everyone a successful and insightful summer semester 2022.**

## Events

12 May 2022 | 8 pm

### Library Talk: Psychoanalysis and Circumcision

Dr. Leon S. Brenner will host a conversation with Dr. Jordan Osserman (University of Essex). Register **on our website**.

13 May 2022 | 9 am

### Career Day on the subject "Working with Groups"

Register **on our website**.

27 June till 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**.

9 July 2022 | 3 pm

### Second Installment of the International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series with Prof. Heidi Levitt, Prof. Sharon Horne und Prof. Phil C. Langer

Register **on our website**.

## Save the Date

2 July 2022

### Long Night of Sciences 2022

Joint program with the Berlin psychoanalytic institutes hosted at the IPU Berlin. You can find more information on our website soon.

## IPU Summer School 2022

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

Scholarships available  
27 June – 8 July 2022



## Digital Amnesia?

### The April Column from IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz

The internet doesn't forget. For documentation (and reconstruction) of historically important events, this is an advantage. But in a personal context, this not-forgetting can be merciless.

This occurred to me as I was watching the depressing, and humanly understandable, but also highly politically and morally ambivalent explanation by the Federal Secretary of Families, who – then still the Environmental Secretary in Rheinland-Pfalz – took a four-week holiday during the floods in Ahrtal. She was incredibly tense, obviously in unfamiliar psychic territory, as she went before the journalists. It seems that none of her colleagues or friends were able to save her from this unfortunate appearance. However, I was more occupied by the question of how this event will ever fade into obscurity. Because on the next day, she certainly regretted the decision to appear before the cameras with her very private family life as reasoning for going on holiday, and with this she will remain "unforgettable". But is that fair?

The analogous criminal law dictates that upon committing a crime, one must serve a sentence for a certain number of years, and then afterwards they are no longer subject to prosecution. The internet, on the other hand, issues life-long judgements, even over relatively small errors. I find it un-reasonable that the indulgence of forgetting is denied to a person, especially if they show remorse or ask for forgiveness.

*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.*



Science has known for a long time, and can prove, that our memory is selective. It tends to hold on to the positive memories and with the less positive ones, it prefers to repress, reinterpret, or completely forget them in order to remain "livable". This happens out of self-preservation. We need to stay in balance – sometimes we call this "mental hygiene". For instance, if a valuable vase falls out of our hands, we'll just say that it wasn't actually that pretty anyway, and so, we can forget the issue.

And yet, all of this in the presence of digital witnesses has become much more difficult. Everything is preserved on the web, and search engines make everything findable in no time at all, which also means: exploitable, scandalizable, even usable years or decades later for illegitimate reasons (for example, for company hiring or in public office). The internet has allowed us to forget our right to forget. For some time, courts have been concerned with this and are grappling with the trade-off between legitimate claims of personal rights and legitimate expectations for a public sphere, which wants to be informed and transparent.

Naturally, there are also situations that under no circumstances should be forgotten, such as pogroms or war crimes. But we should insist on being allowed to forget insignificant, human error or lapse, because where there is no forgetting, there is also no absolution.

With the start of the new summer semester, a large number of pandemic restrictions have been removed. At the IPU Berlin, it is still required to wear an FFP2 mask (lecturers and presenters are exempt during classes). Also during events, during which the minimum safe distance cannot be maintained, attendees must wear masks. These regulations are initially in effect until 31 May 2022. We will inform you of updates here as well as **on our website**. All employees received an email from Chancellor Dr. Rainer Kleinholz on 28 March 2022, which includes all employee-related regulations.

