

Dear subscribers,

As we begin the summer semester 2024, here you will find current information from IPU Berlin, information on upcoming **events** and the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

This year, the **IPU Berlin turns 15 years old**. A decade and a half with a psychoanalytic university in the heart of Berlin. Thanks to the commitment of founder **Prof. Christa Rohde-Dachser** and president emeritus **Prof. Jürgen Körner**, this dream came true. In October 2009, they welcomed the first Master's students to Stromstraße in Berlin-Moabit. Today, the IPU has over 800 students in its Bachelor's and Master's courses in Psychology. This special anniversary will be celebrated with a diverse program starting this summer semester. Find out more **on the IPU website**.

We wish all IPU members a stimulating and lively summer semester. The application period for the winter semester 2024/2025 is now open for prospective psychology students at IPU. The next **information evening** for those interested will take place on 11 June.

15 Years
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin

More information on our website.



Events

25 to 27 April 2024

Emotions and Affects – Perspectives in Political Psychology

Annual conference 2024 at the IPU Berlin organised by Prof. Thomas Kühn, Prof. Phil C. Langer and Prof. Gavin Sullivan. The conference is fully booked, but you can still register **on our website** for the **online keynote speech by Prof. Cynthia Miller-Idriss (Washington DC) on 26 April**.

14 May / 23 May

DAAD Online Webinar Series for international students

IPU's International Office providing information on our two English language programs. Further information **on our website**.

23 May 2024 | 7 pm

Library Talk: Jacques Lacan – The Basics

With Leon S. Brenner and Calum Neill

Register **on our website**.

11 June 2024 | 5 pm

Information evening for prospective students

Register **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE

22 June 2024

Long Night of the Sciences at the IPU Berlin

Information available on our website soon.

Prof. Cynthia Miller-Idriss
Hate in the Homeland

Online keynote lecture at IPU's annual conference
26 April 2024 • 7 pm



Simply said

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

Since 2016, every Friday at 8pm after its news broadcast, the German radio station *Deutschlandfunk (DLF)* has offered an overview of the main news stories in simplified German language. This offer is oriented towards those who have language deficits. "In our point of view, such people belong just as much as others", stated the *DLF* news director in an interview (translation for this text). But if one really listens, it comes across – at least to me – as just a subtle form of exclusion.

The sentences in these news segments are short, sound oddly dry, and conspicuously avoid the German genitive case* (used, among other functions, for indicating possession). In this way, "the Federal Chancellor from Germany visited the capitol city in the country China". Of course, in communicating with those who have language difficulties, it's correct to avoid overly complex sentence structure or technical terminology (or to convey them in easily understood language). But does this mean one must reduce style, sentence structure, and grammar to such an extent that even elemental standards suffer? Learning can only happen by following standards, not by giving them up. This approach, however, seems not to be aspiring to progress, but to adaptation. Consequently, deficits are consolidated rather than overcome, and this cannot be reconciled with public radio's educational mandate.

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.



Of course, this is just a small part of the much more complex issue that is inclusion. Notwithstanding, we should not confront people with language related or other limitations by simulating their handicaps ourselves. It seems to me to be a reversal of the helper-helped relationship, as if we need the weaker ones in order to affirm our own advantages. In this sense, it is indeed clear to me that the juxtaposition of "us" and "them" is a part of the problem. To take a different example: Even children learn correct speech at a delayed rate if adults consistently speak to them in contrived baby talk (like always using the third person form).

On the other hand, it's a welcome development that public offices have made attempts to use more everyday language, so long as nothing is trivialized or overly simplified, rather, that information is communicated in more understandable, accurate, and effective ways.

It would therefore make much better sense if radio stations purposefully cultivated more language models and perhaps built valuable opportunities to learn language into their programs..

*Find a guide to the German genitive case **here**.

Prof. Sarah Bergmann is a new junior professor at the IPU as of this month. She previously worked as a research assistant.

Antonia Wieder is the new research assistant to Prof. Dr. Annette Klein. **Tiisano Lekganyane** and **Terry Meyer** are continuing their work at our university in new roles as research assistants under Wiebke Stelling and Prof. Dr. Tamara Fischmann respectively.

In April, **Sandra Rodriguez** also started working in administration in the Management and Organization team under the supervision of Katja Thiele.

Welcome (in your new roles) at the IPU Berlin.

