

## Long Night of the Sciences 2023 at the IPU Berlin

Joint program with Berlin psychoanalytic institutes  
17 June 2023



Dear members of IPU Berlin,

In our monthly newsletter, you will find all the latest information regarding the IPU Berlin, upcoming **events**, as well as the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

This year, the Berlin **Long Night of the Sciences** will take place on 17 June. The IPU and the Berlin psychoanalytic institutes will be there again to participate with a rich program. You will find more information and how to get tickets **on our website**.

The **KKC Bochum** together with the **SFI Frankfurt** is currently calling for submissions for the **Lotte Köhler Award** for Psychoanalytic Developmental, Cultural and Social Psychology. Researchers who have contributed outstanding achievements to the development and promotion of psychoanalytic, cultural and social psychological development and identity research, can be nominated for the Award. Further information **can be found here**.

## Webinar: Introduction to the MA Psychology focusing on Organisation

14 June 2023 | 4 pm CEST



**Film and Psychoanalysis** is now a well-established format in Berlin's calendar of events. Under the direction of Prof. Andreas Hamburger and Veronika Heller, this summer semester will focus on the dialogue between film psychoanalysis and dance studies. The films will be shown at the City Kino Wedding. For more information about the films, showtimes and tickets, **please visit our website**.

A **GreenOffice** has recently been established at the IPU Berlin. The points of contact are Mira Hummel and Amrita Kour. Through various measures, the GreenOffice raises awareness for the topic of sustainability in the university community, in research and teaching and in operations and governance. Further information and events can be found **on the GreenOffice website**.

As an IPU student, you can find attractive calls for internships, theses and student assistant jobs in our **Career Portal**. You can access the Career Portal with your usual IPU login data.

Last month you read here about the best theses written by **Zoë Hauptmann** (Bachelor) and **Jonas Rudolph** (Master) at IPU in 2022. **On our website** you will now also find the links to the **IPU repository OEDIPUB**, where you can access and read both theses.

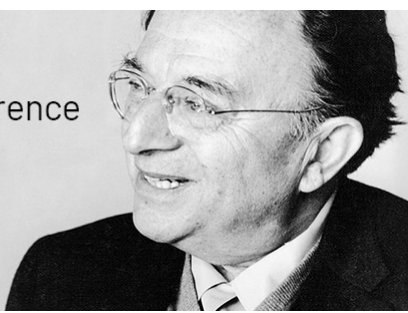
**Are you currently undertaking a research project at the IPU? Enter and update your projects for the IPU website via the protected online form, which you can access here.**

## Humanistic Transformation

Third International Erich Fromm Research Conference

8-11 June 2023

Register on our website.



## Events

8 June 2023 | 5 pm

**IPU information session for prospective students**

Register **on our website**.

8 June 2023 | 7:30 pm

**Prof. Hartmut Rosa: From Affirmation and Responsibility to Transformation and Respons-a-bility**

Public lecture starting the Erich Fromm Conference 2023 (8-11 June at the IPU)

Register **on our website**.

**SAVE THE DATE: 13 June 2023**

**Bursting the Climate Bubble**

Open Lecture by Sally Weintrobe, organised by IPU's GreenOffice

More information on our website soon.

14 June 2023 | 4 pm

**Online Information Session MA Psychology focusing on Organisation**

with Prof. Thomas Kühn and Prof. Birgit Stürmer

Register **on our website**.

14 June 2023 | 7 pm

**Perversion in Lacan: A Structural Diagnosis Or...?**

Public Lecture by Prof. Stephanie Swales (University of Dallas)

Register **on our website**.

17 June 2023 | 5 pm

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

In cooperation with Berlin psychoanalytic institutes.

More information **on our website**.

**SAVE THE DATE: 6 July 2023**

**Hype: The Anatomy of a Contemporary Affect**

Conference organised by KKC-IPU Fellow Yuri Di Liberto

More information on our website soon.



**Now online**

Library Talk with Leon Brenner and Todd McGowan



## Artificial Angst

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

In the newspaper *SPIEGEL*, there was a recent article "If AI gets scared, it becomes racist." Can a chatbot get scared, and if yes, then what of? After Tübingen cognition researcher Eric Schulz "induced fear" in ChatGPT-3, the answers requested from the artificial intelligence became not just a little racist, but in fact reproduced prejudices against the elderly or people with handicaps. Like in analog life, fear seems to unleash biases against the unknown, even in the case of AI.

According to the researcher, if fear is seen as something with a physiological correlation, then AI cannot experience fear. A chatbot shows neither increased heartrate nor breaks out into a sweat. But it looks different if experience is understood as a purely cognitive phenomenon, in which case, just like that, AI could not be denied the feeling of fear.

There are attempts at inhibiting such racist lapses and similar mistakes by AI through "emotion filters." Such a device could have actually helped me in many an analog communication. This proposal leads to the idea of developing a kind of psychotherapy for AI. The AI-agent on the couch doesn't seem so odd if one considers it is exactly their "extraordinarily human" interactions that make them so interesting. Like with people, psychotherapy for artificial intelligence – of course, only possible online – would revolve around bringing its unconscious patterns into the (nonexistent) conscious. If it's true that AI acts "unconsciously" (or at least non-consciously) through shows of emotion, then the question arises whether there is really anything unconscious independent of consciousness.

**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.



I consequently asked ChatGPT to write a love letter. The result was a conglomeration of platitudes whose sources range from classical literature to afternoon television programs. After just a few lines, any love interest would definitely start to wonder: “I promise that I will always be there for you in both good times and bad. I will love you, honor you, and respect you until the end of our days.” The AI shows its hand by writing love letters but not loving.

Possibly, love is now no more than a particular combination of biochemical processes or electrical impulses, with whose help our neuronal system does exactly the same thing as the AI with its algorithms, and which can be stimulated by technology. Digitalized love would then not rely on people, since passion and jealousy, disappointment and rage, sympathy or euphoria would not actually need to be “felt” but would simply be reproduced in forms of linguistic expressions copied from humans. Artificial intelligence can form attraction and empathy in words but is unable to connect them with romantic feelings, and it certainly cannot base intentional action on emotions; that remains our privilege. In this sense, AI won't become a risk, rather, once again, the human who uses it poses the risk. And so, there is still reason for some analog angst.

**Gosia Wojciechowka** joined the Management and Organisation team in May. Together with Laura Nini she will be responsible for our Advanced Studies and Trainings programmes.

**Matthias Mader** and **Anna Rosa Ostern** have been working for six months respectively as research assistants to Prof. Dr. Christine Kirchhoff.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

