

Following the exciting inaugural Open Day at the beginning of this month, we are eagerly anticipating the Long Night of Sciences on Saturday, 6 June. Once again in cooperation with the Berlin psychoanalytic institutes, we welcome anyone interested to Stromstraße for the Long Night of Psychoanalysis. In addition to the exciting events planned for the start of summer, it's worth taking a look back at a May that was institutionally significant for IPU.

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First Dissertation Defense at IPU Berlin

This month, IPU reached a historic milestone: Aaron Lahl became the first doctoral candidate ever to defend his dissertation at our university. His work, entitled "The Ordinary Onanist," was awarded summa cum laude. Read more in [our news spotlight](#).

IPU's information event for prospective students

11 June 2026 • 5 pm



Fee Cuts: Video Statement by Prof. Birgit Stürmer and Dr. Günter Koch (PHB)

It's worth following the IPU on Instagram. We not only report on events like the first dissertation defense, but also regularly publish videos with interesting information on topics such as psychoanalysis and psychotherapy training. Following our joint statement with PHB Berlin, and in light of the fee reductions that came into effect for psychotherapists in April of this year, IPU Vice President Prof. Birgit Stürmer and Dr. Günter Koch, Chancellor of PHB, have now issued a video statement. Learn more [on our website](#).

Change of President at IPU Berlin in June

After a five-year term, IPU Berlin is bidding farewell to President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz. As of 1 June, the current Vice President, Prof. Birgit Stürmer, will take over his duties. During Jan-Hendrik Olbertz's tenure, IPU was able to secure the right to award doctorates, among other achievements. Further details about the change in university leadership will be available soon on our website and in our newsletter.

For five years, Jan-Hendrik Olbertz was not only IPU President but also the author of the newsletter column. You can read the last installment of his column below.

Events

29 May 2026 | 3 pm

Amy Allen: »Das Ende des Fortschritts«

Book review with Pradeep Chakkarath and Prof. Jürgen Straub as part of the KKC event series in the Summer Semester 2026.

More information [on our website](#).

29 May 2026 | 6 pm

Das Journal *psychosozial* stellt sich vor

Event with lectures by Prof. Hans-Jürgen Wirth, Prof. Jürgen Straub, and Prof. Oliver Decker as part of the KKC event series in the summer semester 2026.

Register [on our website](#).

5 June 2026 | 6 pm

What can I expect from a Lacanian Psychoanalysis?

Public lecture with Vicente Palomera.

More information [on our website](#).

Long Night of Sciences

6 June 2026 • 5 pm



6 June 2026 | 5 pm

Long Night of Sciences 2026

Joint program with the Berlin psychoanalytic institutions.

Program and information [on our website](#).

11 June 2026 | 5 pm

IPU's information event for prospective students.

Registration [on our website](#).

11 June 2026 | 7 pm

Wie ist es, psychotherapeutisch zu arbeiten?

IPU info session on site with Prof. Bernd Ahrbeck in Hamburg.

Registration [on our website](#).

16 June 2026 | 6:30 pm

Jenseits intergenerationaler Übertragung. Trauma, Subjektivierung und Anerkennung in der Zweiten Generation

Lecture by Prof. Kristin Platt as part of the event series *Die Wucht der Erinnerung: Zwischen Zeugnis und Zumutung* (*The Force of Memory: Between Testimony and Imposition*) in cooperation with AMCHA e. V.

Registration [on our website](#).

18 June 2026 | 4:15 pm

Aktuelle Befunde zu Antisemitismus in der postmigrantischen Gesellschaft

Lecture by Prof. Naika Foroutan as part of the KKC event series in the summer semester 2026.

Registration [on our website](#).

18 June 2026 | 4:15 pm

Medien der Tiefe. Medienästhetische Perspektiven auf das Aquarium

Lecture by Prof. Natascha Adamowsky (University of Passau) as part of the lecture series *Einführung in psychoanalytische Medientheorien* (*Introduction to Psychoanalytic Media Theories*) in the Summer Semester 2026.

More information [on our website](#).

18 June 2026 | 6 pm

Psychoanalyse und Disability Studies

As part of the Queer IPU event series *Psychoanalysis and Social Inequalities: Societal Power Relations on the Couch*, jointly organized with the Free University of Berlin.

More information [on our website](#).

3 July 2026

Wie ist es, psychotherapeutisch zu arbeiten?

IPU info session on site with Prof. Tamara Fischmann in Frankfurt/Main.

Registration [on our website](#).

29 August till 5 September 2026 | 5 pm

Unsettled Times: Psychological Diagnostics and Interventions for Societies in Crisis

IPU Alumni Master Class

More information [on IPU Connect](#).

Are you planning or organizing an IPU Berlin event?

Use our new form in the InfoCenter to register your event. All links and information can be

found [here](#).

To everything there is a season

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

Not too long ago, it dawned on me just how breathtakingly beautiful a doomsday prophesied by various events can look. That is, if you view it, like the crew of Artemis II, from the far side of the moon. Since then, being “hintermond” [transl. “behind the moon” German language equivalent to “living under a rock”] has ceased to be a pejorative and has become an expression of hard-won insight and lived freedom.

Since my youth, “freedom” has been a central theme in my life. In my professional life, it has been and remains the much-praised, often fiercely contested (because it was denied or granted only reluctantly) freedom of science and its traditional institution: the university. This is the place since time immemorial that has been deeply averse to having anyone—be it a king or a queen, the state, or a governing body—dictate what it should focus its attention on. For, as a rule, this external party is unknowingly unfamiliar with academia and its daily life and does not understand the deeper meaning of autonomy. Just recently, the Leopoldina National Academy chose this keyword as the overarching theme for its 2026 annual meeting.

Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz has been President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin since July 2021. Once a month, he provided commentary here

on contemporary, timeless, psychoanalytic and political issues.



For a university, this means first and foremost that it governs itself, sets its own goals independently, manages its own affairs autonomously, and also ensures that no discipline ever becomes merely a special-interest group for its representatives.

Change, movement, and development are the lifeblood of this process. And so, the same applies here: “To everything there is a season”—a piece of wisdom that can be found in the Old Testament. In the 1970s, the Puhdys turned it into a film score, containing lyrics full of poetry and melancholy, as was often typical of Eastern rock music, and which could only have emerged from hardship. Nothing lasts forever, was the comforting message; everything is fleeting—good times and bad, and everything that happens in life in between.

Were it otherwise, stagnation—if not weariness—would become a threat. The extent to which this insight casts every occasion of letting go in a light of serenity, if not joy, was already clear half a century earlier by Rainer Maria Rilke: “Be ahead of all parting, as though it already were behind you.”

I thank all the readers of this column for their interest over the past five years, for their encouraging feedback, and for the many suggestions for new topics.

A Warm Welcome to the IPU Berlin

Pauline Kerchner started working in the Advanced Studies and Trainings team development department in May. Additionally, Stefan Paszehr joined the finance and human resources team this month, where he will be responsible for personnel matters.

Current job openings, including for student assistants, can be found regularly on our website.

Missing something?

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our newsletter. We welcome topic suggestions, criticism, and ideas by email. Empfehlen Sie unseren Newsletter gern weiter. Please feel free to recommend our newsletter to others. You can [subscribe here](#).

