

**The Climate is Changing: How can We?**

Event series at the IPU Berlin

Organised by IPU's Green Office  
Panel discussion on 27 June



**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**.

The IPU extended the application period for all those looking to enroll in one of our two English Master's programs starting this winter semester. **You can apply until 15 August**. For more information, please visit the program websites of the **MA Psychology with a clinical focus** and the new **MA Psychology focusing on Organisation**.

**The IPU Berlin congratulates Yuliya Salauyova, Erasmus+ Coordinator in the IPU's International Office, on the recent award of the Gustav Heinemann Citizen Award to RAZAM e. V.** Yuliya Salauyova is the founder and current chairwoman of the association. After the association's founding in 2020, it has become the largest national representation of Belarusians living in Germany.

To all students of the IPU Berlin: **The Senate Administration Berlin will give out a one-time subsidy of 75 euros to all students enrolled in the summer semester 2023**. On June 1, 2023, you received an email enclosed with a form with which you can still apply for the payment of the subsidy until 15 July, 2023. All students enrolled in the summer semester 2023 are eligible for the subsidy (the deadline for enrollment was 31 May, 2023).

The DAAD-funded StuFen project at IPU Berlin **is currently looking for StuFen mentors for international students**. The goal of the mentoring program is to support students at the IPU who have refugee backgrounds. The mentoring commitment is rewarded with three ECTS credits for two semesters and a certificate. Please contact the StuFen project **via e-mail if you are interested**.

**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.**

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

Webinar with Marks Solms, Heidi Levitt & Chris Muran  
12 August 2023 | 3 pm CEST



**Events**

27 June 2023 | 8 pm

**Psychology in the Climate Crisis: Call for Action**

Panel discussion hosted by IPU'S GreenOffice with Prof. Susanne Lanwerd, Prof. Christine Kirchhoff, Prof. Christian Hoffmann, Katharina van Bronswijk.

More information **on our website**.

6 July 2023

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

Conference organised by KKC-IPU Fellow Yuri Di Liberto.

Register **on our website**.

13 July 2023 | 8 pm

**Psychology and the climate crisis beyond behaviour change: critical, depth and existential perspectives**

Online Lecture by Matthew Adams, hosted by IPU'S GreenOffice.

More information **on our website**.

**Now online**  
Library Talk with Leon Brenner and Todd McGowan

**On the meaning of clinging**

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

More and more often, one sees (primarily young) people in orange protective vests, seemingly glued in place, sitting in the middle of the streets and intersections, blocking traffic – using nonviolent force to frustrate others. They create artificial traffic jams, in which cars stand around with running motors, hardly anyone arrives at their destination on time, and ambulances or firetrucks are stuck in the middle. What is the fate of one person when considering the survival of all, seems to be their motto...

Who are these protesters who, largely free from self-doubt, place themselves above their fellow people in order to gain attention, and who couple their distrust for the state with a strange trustfulness that they will be harmlessly and painlessly removed from the street?

Maybe they're also the ones who, as children, threw themselves on the floor stomping and screaming when something didn't go exactly their way and managed to get their parents or grandparents to give in...

*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.*



But for all the outrage about their actions, they also show us a dilemma: How can a radically different everyday life compatible with the climate and environment be created on the basis of democratic majority decisions, especially when that means large-scale sacrifices? It's a riddle to me how that would be accomplished. Measured against the real need for action, demands made by climate activists seem almost modest: speed limit on the Autobahn, permanent 9€ ticket for public transportation, a citizen's assembly [Gesellschaftsrat].

But when enforcing what is right and undoubtedly good is accompanied by attacks and coercion, it loses its moral integrity. For the citizen's council, a democratic body formed by undemocratic means, its decisions are already prescribed – on the other hand, there's also the option to glue oneself to the floor there as well...

Instead of sitting in lecture halls or pursuing professional training, these climate clingers (to name them correctly) are squandering their futures based on their fear of the future. Since who, if not them, is called to develop the skills in the coming years to construct environmentally friendly energy facilities, to secure the careful use of natural resources, to bring about sensible rules for organizing work, consumption, and transportation, and to constructively establish necessary agreements for these efforts? It's not really possible to get much of that done while sitting in the middle of the street.

Presumably, the painful uncertainty that this "last" generation is experiencing is also partially projected onto the climate. As such, we are seeing the formation of one of these recurring youth movements, just as we were met with diverse forms of civil disobedience at the beginning and middle of the 20th century, from the Wandervogel movement, to the 1968ers, to anti-nuclear activists.

We must absolutely take their concerns seriously, and I do share their worries. But the debate surrounding the climate shouldn't make other dangers invisible, especially when it causes social cohesion to be lost, and with it, democracy.

That would be the first order of business for me in the citizen's council.

supports Kerstin Thesenvitz, Ute Wendland and Andreas Jost in all HR matters.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

