

Dear subscribers,

Here you will find the latest news from the IPU Berlin, information on upcoming **Events** as well as the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

IPU Founder and Honorary Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Prof. Christa Rohde-Dachser**, has been awarded the **Richard Merton Badge of Honour** by the German Stifterverband this Wednesday. This is in recognition of her extraordinary commitment to science. You will find a more detailed report on our website soon.

IPU students can apply for the Deutschlandstipendium. The application window for the coming winter semester has recently opened. Further information can be found **on our website**.

Last call for the currently advertised **Postdoc Fellowship** of the IPU Berlin and the KKC Bochum: Applicants can apply until 30 June 2024. More information can be found **on our website**.

In our Spotlight you can read about two highly acclaimed anthologies edited by **Prof. Michael B. Buchholz** and **Aleksandar Dimitrijevic**. Find out more **on our website**.

The IPU Berlin mourns the death of Sonja Witte. She died in June 2024 after a short and serious illness. At the IPU Berlin, Sonja Witte was committed to the promotion of cultural studies and theoretical psychoanalysis for many years. Our sympathy and condolences go out to her family and friends. An obituary will follow.

Are you planning or organising an event at the IPU Berlin?

Use the **form in the InfoCenter**, ideally up to four weeks before the event. This will ensure that your event is included in the calendar of events and can be promoted in good time.

Events

28 June 2024 | 12 pm until 3:30 pm | Lecture Hall 4 (91 b)

Group-analytical large group on the topic of war and crises

An exclusive offer for IPU students, organised by StuRa and Diversity AG of the IPU Berlin. The group is lead by Kathrin Albert, psychoanalyst and group analyst.

Register **via mail**.

SAVE THE DATE

2 September 2024 | 5 pm

Online Information Session for Prospective Students.

Further information on our website soon.

Final challenge

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

High school essays, term papers, thesis papers, news articles, and even scientific papers can now be created by text-generating AI, which is in fact rather far off from human thinking. The consequences for this, which extend past issues of legality (such as recognizing academic achievements), need to first be envisioned.

To this end, the IPU recently formed the working group “Artificial Intelligence”, which is facing some serious questions: What happens to our awareness, competencies, and attitudes if we hand over the task of deliberation and reflection to a piece of software? How can works resulting from this be evaluated? Should we start giving out bachelor’s and master’s certificates to a machine instead of our students?

But relying on misgivings and fears won’t get us anywhere. After all, we cannot completely prevent or forbid our students from using such generative tools. Rather, the situation can be helped through offensive examination, clarification, and sensitization to the risks. This could make it possible to establish new conditions for competencies, creativity, and responsibilities, which could also find a place in our curriculum.

***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.*



On the one hand, this all has to do with individual standards as well as the insight that I would wound my own dignity by claiming ownership over a text that I didn’t write. On the other hand, it’s a formal question of whether the work would be accepted, since the threshold to cheating and dishonesty is very low in this matter.

Logic, plausibility, and consistency of thought processes, not to mention authenticity, are only simulated in AI-generated texts, but sometimes they seem astoundingly real. If one takes a closer look, there are often logical or stylistic inconsistencies, but this requires a practiced, analytic eye. This is precisely what the conversation about AI should revolve around. Students could have AI “suggest” texts to them, for which they would have to provide critical reflection, meticulously edit them, and, through this process, make the texts their own. Perhaps this is illusory, especially under time pressure, but it would result in independent work, for which one simply made use of a digital tool (which, of course, should always be stated).

The moment in which reflected decisions and thought-out actions are no longer demanded of us people, necessary standards and aspirations lose their power and are possibly even forgotten. The real challenge is spreading awareness of such risks to everyone involved with artificial intelligence, and it is a challenge – maybe the last great challenge – to human intelligence.

Leroy Stark joined Kerstin Thesenvitz's team this month. He provides support in all Personnel matters.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

