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for the winter semester 2022/2023

Next Info Session for prospective students
26 August 2022 • 5 pm



Dear Newsletter Subscribers,

here you can read about current information, upcoming **events** and the monthly **column** by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz.

Results from a study led by **Prof. Dorothea Huber**, among others, show the effectiveness of the concept of "insight". You can find more information and a link to read the study in our **IPU Spotlight**.

Events

26 August 2022 | 5 pm (Berlin time)

Information session for prospective students

Please register [on our website](#).

Eatability und Studyability

The **July Column** by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz

Among the list of requirements for gaining accreditation of a study course, one can find the criterium "studyability", which colleges and universities must prove as an obvious minimum requirement. To this day, it is a riddle to me as to why they do not protest this. For instance, no cook would ever tolerate the examination of their prepared dishes for "eatability" by someone who neither cooks nor likes to eat.

We know that this absurd practice is a relic left over from the transition period from the former diplom and magister study courses to the Bologna model of bachelor and master studies. At first, the new system was only begrudgingly adopted in German colleges and universities, and all too often just took the form of existing study courses being rearranged. Unfortunately, this led to workloads (yet another characteristic alien to scientific work) that students could no longer cope with.

But in the meantime, the practice of accreditation has become excessive, especially since the accreditation agencies must of course also be accredited, in this case, by an accreditation council. Returning to the hypothetical cook, confirming the eatability of their food would require an external institution, which is even further removed from their kitchen and table.

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.



With all due respect to international compatibility, the result is a strange industrialization of studying and a bureaucratic process, from which I have no desire to work out how much time, effort and funds are taken up from science, universities and the autonomous development of their study courses.

First and foremost, the universities should be able to prove to themselves that their courses are studyable. They should certainly be able to agree upon a few reasonable, basic rules, which could be negotiated with the student council. As a part of this, just like the accreditation requires, they would need plannable, dependable courses of study, extensive freedom from overlapping courses and exams, as well as an exam density appropriate to the workload and the policy that each module only requires one exam.

In order to create and maintain such regulations - by the university itself - there cannot be such elaborate, external procedures. The resources necessary for its implementation - public funds at state universities and tuition fees at private universities - should instead be directed towards research and teaching, i.e. to the study courses. Perhaps they will then be more than "studyable" they will be academically sophisticated as well as adequately staffed and equipped.

I am driven by the question: How should this Gordian knot be cut without the universities, who are the first to oppose it, needing to fear they will lose accreditation for their study courses?

During the summer semester 2022, **Nicola Hawkins** began working as a psychotherapist in the university outpatient clinic. **Paulina Greve** has also recently joined the team of psychotherapists in the outpatient clinic.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the IPU Berlin

