

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**.

Promoting Academic Success and Labor Market Integration of International Talent ("Förderung internationaler Talente zur Integration in Studium und Arbeitsmarkt", FIT) is the new funding program created by the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)** and the **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)**. The aim of the program is to make it easier for international university graduates to access the German job market and thus also to convince interested parties to study in Germany. The IPU has been awarded funding through the program from 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2028 based on the application submitted under the leadership of the International Office. Two important pillars of the program are **the establishment of an International Career Service** and the offer of **German as a foreign language courses** at the IPU. Interested parties can now **register for the courses on our website**. IPU members find more information about the FIT program in the **InfoCenter**.

IPU students can still apply for the **Deutschlandstipendium** scholarship until 16 August 2024. Further information can be found **on our website**.

This year's **Long Night of Sciences at the IPU Berlin** was marked by its 15th anniversary. On our website you will find **a selection of photos from the evening** in June, when almost 1,000 visitors found their way to Berlin-Moabit.

We wish our students a wonderful semester break and look forward to welcoming you back to IPU Berlin at the start of the winter semester.

Online information event for prospective students

2 September 2024 • 5 pm



Events

2 September 2024 | 5 pm

Online Information Session for Prospective Students.

Register **on our website**.

17 October 2024 | 6 pm

From Victimhood to Empowerment – Living with the Aftermath

Lecture by Maya Lasker-Wallfisch as part of the series "Transgenerationale Trauma begegnen". Organised by Prof. Phil C. Langer in cooperation with AMCHA.

More Information **on our Website**.

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.

German words confuse even German brains

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

A few days ago, while reading the newspaper, I misunderstood a word. It was an advertisement that described a building as having **"Altbaucharme"** (Altbau-Charme; old building charm). But when I read **"Altbauch-arme"** (poor people with old bellies), I got stuck – even though I have a belly myself. My brain put the components of the word together incorrectly. Was it talking about the bellies of poor old people or about an old building with charm? There are plenty of other confusing words in German, for example, Nietzsche's poem **"Vereinsamt"** ("Lonesome"), whose title can be mistaken for a government office (Vereinsamt; department of societies). From ornithology, we know the **Zwergelstern**, which, depending on the number can either be found on a tree (Zwerg-elstern; small kind of finch) or in space (Zwergel-stern; dwarf star). And for travelers there is the **Nachteilzug** (Nacht-eilzug; overnight speed train), whose cancellation is certainly a drawback (Nachteil-zug; disadvantageous train). Something similar also recently occurred to me when the train **Streikende** (strikers) were called to end their strike (Streik-ende; strike end).

Semantic distinctions aren't always easy to discover and correctly interpret in German compound words, especially since they depend on the context. If you have a fear of long words, your doctor (or likely your therapist) will diagnose Sesquipedalophobia – and therefore probably worsen the condition.

***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.*



A few years ago the state parliament of Saxony-Anhalt discussed the **"Verwaltungsvereinfachungsbeschleunigungsgesetz"** ("Administrative Simplification Acceleration Act"), which really promised the opposite of the word itself, apart from the fact that it remained unclear how "simplification" is to be accelerated.

The longest compound word that I remember from my childhood is **"Eisenbahnsignalmastfabrikdirektorstürschlüssellochverstopfungsentferner"** ("railroad signal tower factory director's keyhole clog remover"). I passed this on to my granddaughter when they were learning about compound words in school. It actually refers to the match used by the director of a factory that makes railroad signal towers to unclog the keyhole in their door.

Caroline Sosat joined the International Office at IPU Berlin in July. As part of the FIT program, she is involved in setting up the International Career Service.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

