

Dear subscribers,

Here you will find the latest news from the IPU Berlin, information on [events](#) and the monthly [column](#) by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

Apply for winter semester at the IPU Berlin

Study at [one of Berlin's best universities for psychology](#). In addition to our bachelor's program, our master's programs will also start in October, including the MA Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy and the new MA Psychoanalytic Cultural Studies and Cultural Psychology. The application window is still open. [Find out more on our website](#).

Psychoanalysis and Cultural Psychology in Contemporary Societies

New master's program in German.



Deutschlandstipendium Scholarship and offers from the International Office

IIPU students can still apply for ERASMUS+ semesters abroad in summer 2026. The application deadline is extended to 15 August 2025. Further information [can be found here](#).

The IPU Berlin also offers additional courses in German as a foreign language. Interested students can register for upcoming courses at the B1 and B2 levels. More information [on our website](#).

IPU students can apply for Deutschlandstipendium Scholarships until 15 August. Apply via [our website](#).

News from the Green Office

As part of the Long Night of Sciences, the first Climate Café took place at the IPU at the end of June. In a small, open discussion, participants talked about the emotional aspects of the climate crisis – about fear, anger, hopelessness, but also about solidarity and the will to act. The discussion was moderated by psychoanalyst Kathrin Albert. "It was a special format that showed that sustainability also needs room for emotions," said the Green Office staff. Another Climate Café is being planned.

All IPU members can ride NextBike for free until October. Register with your university email address, verify your account, and enjoy 60 free minutes per ride. Those starting the next semester in the fall can also take a look at the Virtual Academy for Sustainability (VAN) now. There, IPU students can find online courses on climate, the environment, and sustainable development—at their own pace and creditable as a related subject in their bachelor's program. If students have any questions, ideas, or are interested in getting involved, they can [contact the Green Office by email](#).

Announcement of the 2025 Lotte Köhler Prize

Our cooperation partners at the KKC Bochum and the SFI Frankfurt are currently accepting nominations for the Lotte Köhler Prize for Psychoanalytic Developmental, Cultural, and Social Psychology, which is awarded in two categories (main category and young talent award). Nominations will be accepted until 15 October 2025. Further information [can be found here](#).

Podcast 50 Minuten and Spotlight

Prof. Jürgen Straub was a guest on the IPU podcast *50 Minuten*. The current episode deals with the complex relationship between culture and the individual. You can listen to *50 Minuten* anywhere podcasts are available. Further information is available [on our website](#).

In [our Spotlight](#), you can read about an interview with Prof. Christine Kirchhoff on Deutschlandfunk radio and Prof. Andreas Hamburger's lecture on film psychoanalysis at Columbia University, which is now available online.

50 MINUTEN

Was du für individuell hältst, ist kulturell geprägt
In conversation with Prof. Jürgen Straub



Events

22 August 2025 | 12 pm

Wie ist es, psychotherapeutisch zu arbeiten?

IPU info session in Hamburg with Prof. Bernd Ahrbeck.

Register [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

4 September 2025 | 5 pm

IPU information session for prospective students

Further information on our website soon.

20-27 September 2025

Human(ely) Living in the Future: Psychological Diagnostics and Interventions for Modern Societies

First IPU Alumni Masterclass 2025 funded by DAAD.

Register [on IPU Connect](#).

25-27 September 2025

Verwoben: Subjekte jenseits von Autonomie und Auflösung

Interdisciplinary conference at IPU Berlin.

Further information [on our website](#).

26 September 2025 | 5-8 pm

MUTTIER III: « Ohne Worte »

Kind und Psychose. Die Entstehung von Sprache und Kunst aus der Angst

Closing event of the lecture series *Theoretical and Historical Aspects of Psychosis* with

Dorothea von Haebler, Irini Athanassakis and Meredith Stone.

Register [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

17 October 2025

Farewell symposium for Prof. Annette Streeck-Fischer

Further information will be available on our website soon.

SAVE THE DATE

21 October 2025

Evening lecture as part of the event series *Bilder, Bewältigung & Erinnerungskulturen*

Organized by IPU Berlin in collaboration with AMCHA e. V.

More detailed information will be available on our website soon.

19 November 2025 | 7 pm

Eine Sprache der Liebe. Über die Interspezieskommunikation von Pferd und Mensch in ihren Schnittstellen zur psychoanalytischen Theorie und Behandlungspraxis

Reading and discussion with authors Loretta Würtenberger and Hubertus Graf Zedtwitz,

moderated by Prof. Benigna Gerisch.

Register [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

26-27 November 2025

Research Lab plus

Symposium at the IPU Berlin with a public evening lecture by Prof. Vera King (Sigmund Freud

Institute Frankfurt/Main).

Further information will be available on our website soon.



Excuse me?

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

This time, I thought long and hard about what could serve as a light-hearted summer topic, as many of us are now going on vacation and finally want to "bathe our souls," as Kurt Tucholski described in his story *Castle Gripsholm*. While sitting with friends in a pub by the lake recently, the saving idea occurred to me: We wanted to call the waiter, but weren't sure how to do so in a politically correct and respectful manner these days. "Herr Ober!" (translation: "Waiter!") was still used innocently in my childhood (and to this day, a restaurant on the Alter Strom in Warnemünde is called that), and my parents even knew the imperative "Frollein!" (translation: "Waitress!" now considered pejorative) when referring to a female waitress. I considered a simple "Hello," sometimes "a moment please," to be common for decades. While we debated and weighed the different options, the waiter walked past our table and casually remarked, "Yep, my name is Excuse Me." Straight from the horse's mouth, this evoked a liberating laugh around the table. .

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.



In fact, all of us had used "Excuse me" – usually in a questioning tone – to call the waiter in a restaurant before. But, as a guest seeking attention, apologizing to a "hospitality professional," as the profession is officially called in German, is more than peculiar. The same applies to "sorry" or "pardon me," because in what way are you at fault when you want to place your order or pay the bill in a restaurant? If *that* were the quality of the relationship that is supposed to be established and maintained during your stay, the service could just as well be entrusted to a robot, which cannot be disturbed and is unlikely to react sensitively if addressed inappropriately.

However, another observation is much more important: the friendlier and more attentive guests and staff are towards each other, the more relaxed and uncomplicated the atmosphere becomes; guests feel welcome and staff enjoy their work and show it. If charm comes into play, a simple hand signal is probably enough to get noticed, i.e., making eye contact and then simply raising your hand as you would in school. Another waitress recommended this to me a few days later, and when I followed her advice, she responded with "Very good!"

Are you missing something?

We look forward to your feedback on our newsletter. Suggestions as well as criticism are very welcome. Just write us an **email**. Also, feel free to recommend our newsletter. Those interested can **register here**.

