

Dear members of the IPU Berlin,

In our monthly newsletter you will find the latest news from the IPU Berlin, upcoming **events** as well as the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

The **International Horst Kächele Memorial Webinar Series** recently came to an initial conclusion. Moderated by **Prof. Andreas Hamburger**, DAAD visiting professors **Mark Solms**, **Heidi Levitt** and **Christopher Muran** spoke with IPU researchers **Jenny Eis**, **Sofia Kontaxi** and **Marie Siebert**, who presented their current research. You can now watch the webinar **on our YouTube channel**.

A conference at the IPU Berlin on 11 November, organized by **Prof. Christine Kirchhoff** and **Aaron Lahl**, is dedicated to the work of the French psychoanalyst **Jean Laplanche**. The program and registration form will be published shortly on the IPU website.

The **application deadline** for our two English master's programs has been **extended to 22 September**. Further information can be found on the program pages of the **MA Psychology with a clinical focus** and the new **MA Psychology focusing on organisation**.



Events

31 August 2023 | 5 pm

Online info session for prospective students

Register **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE: 8 November 2023

University Day on the topic of Research at the IPU Berlin.

SAVE THE DATE: 11 November 2023

Conference on Jean Laplanche's psychoanalytic approach and theory.

From 10 November 2023

Autism as a Mode of Being. Contemporary Clinical Approaches to Autism

Workshop presented by Leon S. Brenner

Register **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE: 22 November 2023

Research Forum for all IPU professors and research assistants as well as interested students.

**You can apply now
for the winter semester 2023 / 2024**

Next Online Info Session for prospective students
31 August 2023 • 5 pm



Remembering the Future

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

For some time, it has been a point of discussion in the field of brain research, whether the task of memory is not only to look backward, but also to paint an image of the future. That would be no surprise to me, as everything I plan for (both what to do and what to omit) is derived from the past, i. e., from my memory. At the start of the millennium, when the Japanese brain researcher Juri Okuda asked test subjects to remember past experiences or imagine future ones, he discovered through MRI scans that certain brain regions – like the hippocampus, otherwise known as the “seahorse” – were similarly active during both tasks. Shortly after, experiments by Canadian memory researcher Endel Tulving suggested that patients suffering from conditions that prevent them from remembering past experiences were also incapable of forming a picture of the future. Apparently, the memory's functions also include looking into the future, or stated otherwise: *to remember the future*.

There are already various books and films on this idea, which span from the science fiction literature of Erich von Dänikens, who traces our existence back to visits from extraterrestrials to the American science fiction film trilogy “Back to the Future,” and to Hans Magnus Enzensberger, who, in an eponymous volume, describes poetry as something that already exists and yet must first become, anticipating itself, as it were.

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.



From the prefix “re-,” remembering (and its more active counterpart, recollecting) indicates that something will occur once again. It will be brought forward from the past and produced in the memory anew, often with intentional force, in contrast to the passive “forgetting.”

Indeed, reminiscences are often a warning for the future. Cassandra predicted the defeat of the Trojans but was ignored; later the apocalypse became a literary doomsday device in diverse variations, which derives what is to come from what occurred in the past. Its relation to the concept of Zeitenwende (transl. turn of an era) was hopefully not intentional when the German Chancellor recently placed this image into the public discourse.

Ultimately, this all has to do with mechanisms of and ways of compensating for fear. Fear also often arises from memory (i. e., when there is threat of repetition); coupled with imagination, the motive becomes avoidance. In the present moment, we can see this, for example, in the climate conservation efforts by the “Last Generation.” They chose this potent end-of-days metaphor in order to force us to remember the future that should in fact not come to pass.

It's not without reason that the words “recall” and “recollect” are so close to one another.

