

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**.

Prospective students can **still apply to study at the IPU Berlin until 22 September 2024**. Open questions about the curriculum and financing options will be answered during our **Online Information Session on 2 September**. Also, students can **still register for German as a Foreign Language courses on our website**.

To promote the exchange of psychoanalytic knowledge between students and alumni of the IPU Berlin, the **International Alumni Program (IAP)** recently launched the **Topic Ambassador Program**. As part of this program, experienced international IPU alumni share their expertise and experience with the IPU community. You can **learn more about the program and the Ambassadors on IPU Connect**. There you will also find the announcement of a **workshop with Topic Ambassador Adrian Soltoković from 25 to 27 September 2024**, for which IPU students and IPU alumni can **now register**.

From now on, **you can listen to lectures from the IPU Annual Conference 2023 in our audio library**. The conference entitled *Drive and Method. Psychoanalytic Perspectives in Qualitative Research* was organized by **Prof. Christine Kirchhoff**, **Aaron Lahl** and **Ben Salfeld**. You can also listen to **a contribution in English by Steffen Krüger** in the audio library.

It is with great sadness that the IPU Berlin bids farewell to **Prof. Dr. Karl Schlecht**, entrepreneur, benefactor and extraordinary supporter of humanistic education and science. Karl Schlecht was instrumental in the founding of the Erich Fromm Study Center at the IPU in 2016. We commemorate him in an **obituary on our website**.

Workshop with Topic Ambassador Adrian Soltoković and Nejra Tinjić

25–27 September 2024 • Hybrid format



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.

25 till 27 September 2024

Deinstitutionalization Approach and User Associations as Models for Therapy and Healing

Workshop with Topic Ambassador Adrian Soltoković for IPU students and alumni.

Register **on IPU Connect**.

SAVE THE DATE

15/16 October 2024

The Rope of Sexuality or How Children 'Researchers' Prime the Place of Sexuality – a Freudian/Laplanchean View

Lecture by psychoanalyst Cecilia Taiana on 15 October (6 pm), continued by a workshop for IPU students on 16 October 2024.

More information on our website soon.

SAVE THE DATE

21 till 25 October 2024

Celebration week on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the IPU Berlin

Including Prof. Emil Angehrn, Prof. Louis Castonguay, Prof. Stephan Doering and Prof. David Tuckett.

Further information will soon be available on our website.

Online information event for prospective students

2 September 2024 • 5 pm



Astropsychology

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

If one removes themselves too far from the IPU – i.e. on holiday – curious thoughts tend to pop up. Mine led me into outer space to extraterrestrial civilizations, but there was a stopover at the Space Expo, Visitors Center and Museum at the European Space Research and Technology Centre of the European Space Agency (ESA), which can be found at the North Sea between Katwijk and Noordwijk. Twelve sculptures of the astrological signs adorn the building, which sculptor Antonius (Toon) Slegers portrayed as extraterrestrial forms. They symbolize the fascination with lifeforms from beyond our planet.

The statistical probability that there is life on other planets – even intelligent life – is exceedingly high. In our galaxy alone there are billions of celestial bodies, and certainly some among them where lifeforms can be found. For more than fifty years, the international SETI project ("Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence") has been watching for signals from them with large radio telescopes, but so far, they have been unsuccessful.

***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.*



We want to find out what such a species looks like, how they live, how smart they are, and of course – maybe on an unconscious level – what they will think of us if they happen to find us before we find them. This pursuit is philosophically and epistemologically interesting, but also psychologically, especially in terms of motives.

One hypothesis is that we are looking for self-affirmation and proof of our superiority. A different hypothesis points in the other direction: What if these extraterrestrials had higher intelligence than we have? At the very least, they would doubt ours just by watching how we ravage our own planet.

Or maybe we won't meet any natural lifeforms (anymore). Maybe it will instead be an artificial intelligence, with which we can barely communicate due to our lack in technology. Then at least there would be a hope that instead of exploiting the intellectual and material resources of foreign civilizations or colonizing their people (which we have enough experience of on Earth), we could learn from them.

For me, however, it's about time to return to familiar terrain.

Philipp Wunderlich started working as a research assistant for Prof. Gavin Sullivan this month.

Martin Slotta joined the team of psychotherapists at the outpatient clinic on 1 August.

Kerstin Thesenvitz's Finance and Personal Affairs team is delighted to welcome two interns,

Katharina Thomson and Christopher Vogt.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

