

## In Kandel's Footsteps: Epigenetic and Therapeutic Change

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Juan Pablo Jiménez

28 September 2022 - 6:30 pm

Dear Readers,

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

In cooperation with the **Hans Kilian and Lotte Köhler Center (KKC)**, the IPU is issuing **six doctoral scholarships on the topic "Trauma and Collective Violence: Articulation, Negotiation, and Recognition"**. The funding is provided in the context of a new interdisciplinary graduate workshop. The deadline for applications is 15 October. Further information **on our website**.

An anthology recently released by former IPU president **Martin Teising** and **Joachim Küchenhoff** titled **Sich selbst töten mit Hilfe Anderer** (translation: Ending one's own life with the help of others) collects interdisciplinary perspectives on the discourse surrounding assisted suicide. More information **in our Spotlight**.

**365x Freud** is the name of the calendar reader, in which 280 renowned representatives of international psychoanalysis and well-known figures from literature, culture, and philosophy present their approach to Freud's work through creatively annotated quotes from Freud. **Tobias Nolte** and IPU instructor **Kai Rugenstein** collaborated on releasing this text. You can find more information **in our Spotlight**.

All members of the IPU are invited to join in celebrating our anniversary and the introduction of professors on 12 October in lecture hall 4 (Alt-Moabit 91b) called **Science meets Administration & vice versa**. During the first part, starting at 4 pm, long-time IPU employees will be honored by the IPU administration. Starting around 5 pm, we will name new junior and senior professors.

On 9 November, the research commission is hosting a **Research Forum** starting at 5:30 pm in room 3b-04, in which all scholars and students are welcome to participate. The research forum serves as a platform for IPU researchers to present ongoing or concluded research projects and enter into lively exchange.

## Six doctoral scholarships

Issued by the IPU Berlin and the Hans Kilian and Lotte Köhler Center (KKC)

Apply until 15 October 2022.

## Events

28 September 2022 | 6:30 pm

**In Kandel's Footsteps: Epigenetic and Therapeutic Change**

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Juan Pablo Jiménez

Register **on our website**.

12 October 2022 | 4 pm | Alt-Moabit 91b

**Science meets Administration & vice versa**

Honoring of long-time IPU employees and introduction of new junior and senior professors.

9 November 2022 | 5:30 pm | Room 3b-04

**Research Forum**

Platform for IPU researchers to present ongoing or concluded research projects.

**Contributions by Stelzel et al.** "Individual differences in primary emotional systems in humans and affective motivational processing in the brain – aims and study design" and **Sell, Volz, Klug, Huber** "What Does it Take to Repair Alliance Ruptures?: A Single Case Study Using Observer-Rated Measures".

## Freedom in Thinking and Thinking

### Differently

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

Rather by accident, I recently found in the MDR media library an episode of the TV comedy show "Das Gipfeltreffen" (The Summit Meeting). First it was only really flat jokes like the question, what is written on the tombstone of a mathematician who died suddenly? (Answer: "Well, I didn't count on that.") In a line of such platitudes, one of the members asked: "What do you call a dark-skinned woman who is flying a giant airplane?" The witty Saxon cabaret artist Olaf Schubert answers cleverly: "A pilot." And he received praise from the one asking the question: "Correct. Many people have to think about it for a while. And the time they take to think, that's racism."

And so, it's that easy to call someone a racist. But in reality, the question itself is quite racist. I don't want to exclude the possibility that the quoted dialogue was some kind of satirical critique of this pattern, but somehow, it didn't seem like it.

There are plenty of variations of this kind of thing. Anyone who chooses a format that someone else has already used – especially someone who is politically far to the right or left – will see themselves convicted of the same thing at the flip of a coin. Anyone who shares an observation from someone else who – possibly accurately – is homophobic or sexist, also brings the same label directly onto himself.

**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..



I have witnessed discussions, in which the people speaking weren't listening to each other at all anymore, but were just leering at one another: When will the first word be spoken that accuses both? In the newspaper, I read that wearing dreadlocks has recently been branded as "cultural appropriation". If that's the case, then soon every gospel choir will need to be forbidden.

These are the tendencies that we need to keep a close eye on, especially as they are starting to creep into the free, and therefore constitutionally protected, space of the sciences. One can observe it in cases of particularly complex topics, such as the debate surrounding identity or transgender, that not only demand professionalism, but also sensibility, contextualization – above all a basic consensus about the standards of our culture of discourse. All too quickly, positions or even sometimes just questions or doubts that deviate from the mainstream, misunderstood political correctness are identified as expressions of discrimination or even "hostility". Reflexively, it then comes to condemnation, ritualized "distancing" or even demands for expulsion from the scientific community, sometimes even as a precondition for a "respectful and appreciative" exchange.

But discrimination cannot be tackled by discrimination, just like defamation through defamation. The way out of painful restrictions on freedom cannot be the restriction of someone else's freedom. Instead, it is precisely the sciences that offer space for bold, open debate, in which various perspectives can be reflected and arguments can be exchanged. And it is only with an open, tolerant and diverse community that the sciences can guarantee such freedom.

