

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**. Additionally, and for the first time ever, you will find information from our **GreenOffice**.

The IPU recently hosted the **Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance**. IPU professor **Thomas Kühn**, along with Lisa Schmalzried from the Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics, sociologist Klaus M. Leisinger and Jonathan Keir from the Karl Schlecht Foundation, engaged in debates with international students about the various challenges presented by the ever-evolving global order. To learn more about this event, **please visit our website**.

Anyone interested may submit an application for **two doctoral scholarships offered by the Foundation to Promote University Psychoanalysis by 3 November**. These scholarships are specifically designed to provide concurrent support to doctoral students who are also undergoing psychotherapy training. To access additional details, **please visit our website**.

Michael B. Buchholz and Aleksandar Dimitrijevic recently published the book ***Silence and Silencing in Psychoanalysis – Cultural, Clinical and Research Perspectives***, which addresses silence within the psychotherapy room as well as silence as a societal topic. Currently, Prof. Buchholz is also a co-organizer for the annual ***International Conference on Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy (ICCA-P)***, which will take place in Mannheim in 2024. During the conference, he will present as one of three keynote speakers. A **call for papers is open now**.

Currently, there is an open position at the IPU for a **Research Associate in Social Psychology with Prof. Gavin Sullivan**. Our website regularly features a range of additional job opportunities within the IPU Berlin. Furthermore, IPU members can discover a multitude of compelling job listings within our **Career Portal**.

Events

SAVE THE DATE: 25 October 2023 | 6 pm

Semester Opening with Prof. Gavin Sullivan

Registration coming soon (you will be informed via e-mail).

SAVE THE DATE: 8 November 2023

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

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 associates as well as interested students.

SAVE THE DATE: 30 November 2023

Erich Fromm Lecture 2023 with Prof. Thomas Fuchs (University of Heidelberg). More information coming on our website soon.

News from the GreenOffice

We are pleased to announce news from the GreenOffice will be provided here from now on. This month we start with two introductions: On 1 October, we will launch **our first Ideas Competition**. You are invited to think together about how we as IPU can contribute to necessary social-ecological transformation. Awards and prize money await the winners. The first draft of ideas can be submitted **until 12 November**. After that there is time for further elaboration.

Also on 1 October, a **cooperation between the IPU and the Virtual Academy for Sustainability (VAN)** will begin. There you can take a course in environmental psychology, or events as affine subjects in the field of sustainability. For more information, check out **our website**, write us or get in touch. We wish all students, teachers, and staff at IPU a great start to the new semester and look forward to working with you.

Your GreenOffice

Gendering or Adapting?

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

The Council for German Orthography recently recommended that for now, gender-conscious writing (i.e. “gendering” *) should not be adopted into its official catalogue of rules. I was relieved. Last year, when we celebrated our university summer party in the *FabrikInnenhof* of the Berlin Sarotti Höfe, I was shocked that even such locales are now being gendered...

Pronouncing the hiccup of the so-called *Binnen-I* (transl. internal-I), the absurdity of having a colon in the middle of a word, or even an asterisk – all of that is used almost spastically in order to separately address all imaginable genders or gender identities. Apparently, this is no longer possible through natural abstraction, which would in fact be a masterful method. Rather, it is now only possible through explicit naming at any cost.

Additionally, most of these language acrobatics are after all only derivations of the mascu-line version, which to me seems to be a touchy issue with the gendering system. For example, in the word “*Lehrerin*” (transl. female teacher) (or “*Arbeiterin*” transl. female worker), the female gender is incorporated as a sort of appendix to the masculine. Alternatively, they would need to be “*Lehrin*” and “*Arbeitsin*” (according to the format used for “*Beamtin*,” for which no one would use the form “*Beamterin*” transl. female civil servant).

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.



No less problematic is the well-known indication (*m/w/d*) in job postings (*männlich/weiblich/divers*; transl. male/female/non-binary): male and female count as clear designations; however, by using “d,” everything else is subsumed under one letter and is therefore leveled.

Of course, our age-old understanding of gender-based division of labor is our own invention, or rather, a male construction, as the ancient societies of “*Jäger und Sammler*” (transl. male hunters and gatherers), as we were taught in school, never actually existed in this straightforward way. Archeologists have indeed discovered swords in the graves of women, just as they have found male skeletons interred with those of children.

Even medicine discovered gender differences long ago, and not only within diagnostics, but also in therapy. Even I still catch myself out when I am astonished to hear that a woman has suffered a heart attack. The fact that these are often not diagnosed at all or only too late is certainly a product of the male gaze and male bias.

Most problematic is the militant nature in which the new ways of writing are enforced. Societal deficiencies such as gender inequality, which has still not been universally accepted, cannot be remedied in this way. Personally, I would prefer to see change rather than simple gender-consciousness.

*For more detailed information about the German gendering system, **see this article**.

