

## IPU Information Session for prospective students

24 November • 5 pm



**Dear members of the IPU Berlin,**

A warm welcome to the winter semester 2022/2023. We hope that you have had a good start to the new lecture period. Once a month, you will find the current information, upcoming **Events** as well as the monthly **Column** of IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz.

Our cooperation partners of the KKC Bochum offer interesting lectures and talks every semester, many of which are also accessible online. An overview of upcoming events in the winter semester 2022/2023 can be accessed [here](#).

## Erich Fromm Lecture 2022

with Prof. Hans-Jürgen Wirth • 30 November



## Events

**Save the Date: Research Forum**

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

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”.

**24 November 2022 | 5 pm | Lecture Hall 2**

**Information Session for prospective students**

Register [on our website](#).

**30 November 2022 | 7 pm | Lecture Hall 1**

**Erich Fromm Lecture 2022 with Prof. Hans-Jürgen Wirth**

Feelings Make Politics: Populism, Pandemic, War and the Chance of Vulnerability

Register [on our website](#).

## Acts of Forgetting

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

Recently, the 10<sup>th</sup> “German-speaking International Psychoanalytical Conference” (DIPsaT) took place in Leipzig, this time hosted by the German Psychoanalytical Association (DPV). The theme was “Remembering and Forgetting”, and it was me who was scheduled to give the open evening lecture – someone who could justifiably claim to be devoid of any expertise on this topic. At least this gave me the courage to write this column.

In German, there are three terms dedicated to the phenomenon of memory: Verblässen [Fading], Vergessen [Forgetting] and Verdrängen [Repressing]. In psychoanalytical theory, denial or splitting are added to this. I was particularly interested in the keyword repression that regulatory mechanism which, as I read, *selects* our points of reference in order to emphasize the constructive ones, and *relativizes* them in order to make a loss of meaning possible in the first place. Regarding this, the conference booklet said that for Freud, repression was an “active form of forgetting”. But forgetting happens *inactively*, I object – it “happens”, contents of consciousness “fade away” when they are not subjectively significant or when they are too infrequently recalled. The imperative “forget it” is, after all, paradoxical for precisely this reason. I thought this applied to repression as well. For whom is the “actor” in this act? Can someone who represses something be called a “repressor”, as in the case of a crime, a perpetrator? Who is it that thereby “keeps taboo or threatening facts away from conscious perception”, as relevant compendia put it? This question did not let me go.

**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.



When it comes to dreaming, it is easier – at least in linguistic terms: instead of “ich träumte” [I dreamed], we sometimes say “mir träumte” [it is dreamed in me], which is more accurate. “Once did it dream in me of wildest passion’s glow”, wrote Heinrich Heine, and André Heller sang “it dreamed in me, I was submerged” (deep in the sea). Is the question of “who” dreamed the two perhaps precisely the gateway to the unconscious, even a reference to Sigmund Freud’s famous “id”?

Moreover, the question of the subject of conscious action reminded me of the function of impersonal verbs from my German studies, so-called verba impersonalia, such as “schneien” [snowing] (Who is snowing?). We also find them in phrases like “mir scheint” [it seems to me] or “mich dünkt” [methinks]. With the former, a distance is associated, in the sense of a perhaps unconsciously articulated doubt towards one’s own perception. In valency grammar, the verbs or predicates of such short or partial sentences are called “avalent” or “null-sentential” (which I have always liked).

In the company of some understanding and humorous colleagues, including my patient sister, I came to the conclusion that in this “active form of forgetting” *I am* indeed always the one who carries it out. There is no one else – conscious or unconscious – to consider. Thank God, one might add. I am actively repressing, but unconsciously. Then the word “active”, which I had been so bothered by, would have its justification. And “I dreamed” could also mean “myself dreamed in me”.

**Prof. Tilmann Habermas**, retired professor at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, has been teaching at IPU since October 2022 and joins **Prof. Leonie Kampe** (newly appointed junior professor), **Prof. Christian Sell** (newly appointed junior professor) and **Prof. Christopher Muran** (Adelphi University, New York, DAAD-Horst Kächele Professorship) in strengthening the academic staff this winter semester.

**Veronika Heller** also started her work at the IPU in October. She will now be working as a research assistant for Prof. Dr. Andreas Hamburger. For Prof. Christiane Steinert, **Laura Hübner** will henceforth work as a research assistant in the ENHANCE B-1 project. In addition, **Victoria Kertress** started her work as a psychotherapist in the Outpatient Clinic in October.

In the Administration the IPU welcomes **Mauricio Cordovez** as a staff member in the International Office. **A warm welcome to all of you at the IPU Berlin.**

