

Dear IPU members,

Here you will find the latest information from the IPU Berlin at the start of the winter semester, details of **events** as well as the monthly **column** by IPU Preäsident **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

Forschungslabor plus with public lecture by Prof. Vera King on 26 November

This year, the IPU Berlin annual conference will take the form of Research Lab plus. On 27 November, the format will bring together IPU researchers from the three main areas of psychotherapy process, transformation, and concept research. In addition, the Research Lab plus will focus on the activities of young scientists, i.e., early-career researchers. All IPU members are invited to attend. You can find the detailed program **In the InfoCenter**.

The Forschungslabor plus will open on the evening before, 26 November 2025, with a public lecture by Prof. Vera King. The director of the Sigmund Freud Institute in Frankfurt will speak on the relationship between the psyche and society in times of regression and take a look at perspectives in psychoanalytic social research. Register for the lecture **on our website**.

Prof. Vera King: Psyche und Gesellschaft in Zeiten der Regression

26 November 2025 • 6 pm



New, simpler processes for ethics applications and event planning

The Ethics Committee is dedicated to the ethical assessment of psychological research projects at the IPU. It becomes active whenever an application is submitted. The submission and processing of these ethics applications has recently become easier: a completely revamped process has been created in the InfoCenter. All ethics applications can be conveniently submitted there using a form and are sent directly to the members of the committee.

Information **can be found in the InfoCenter**.

As an IPU member, you can now register ideas and plans for events with Event Management at an early stage. A new workflow has also been set up for this purpose in the InfoCenter. Please register all events using the form provided there so that they can be announced well in advance. All information can be found in the **in the InfoCenter**.

Apply now for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master SPOT in the winter semester 2026/2027

The IPU is proud to welcome **the first cohort of students to the innovative SPOT (Social Psychology of Transformation) master's program** in Berlin this October. The 30 students come from four different continents and will follow a unique curriculum that will take them to a different partner university in Europe each semester. The application window for the second cohort in the 2026/2027 winter semester has recently opened. Interested students can apply until 16 January 2026, and find all relevant information **on the SPOT website**.

Events at the KKC Bochum this winter semester and news from the Green Office

Our cooperation partners at the Hans Kilian and Lotte Köhler Center (KKC) at Ruhr University Bochum have organized a diverse and rich program for the winter semester, including contributions from Prof. Hans Joas and Prof. Iris Därmann. Some of the events will also take place at the IPU Berlin. An overview of all dates can be found **on our website**.

News from the Green Office at the IPU Berlin can now be found **in the InfoCenter**. The Green Office regularly posts about activities and events there. Follow the site to receive automatic updates by email.

We wish all students, members of the IPU Berlin, and those who feel connected to it an insightful winter semester.

Events

4 November 2025 | 7 pm

Die Queerness der Psychoanalyse

Book presentation with Esther Hutfless, Luce deLire, and Myriam Sauer, organized by *Queer IPU*.

Register **on our website**.

6 November 2025 | 5 pm

„Wir könnten uns von dieser Hölle befreien...“ (Ester Wajcblum). Netzwerke weiblichen Widerstands in Auschwitz

Lecture by Prof. Iris Därmann (Humboldt University of Berlin) as part of the joint event series of the IPU Berlin and the KKC Bochum.

Information and registration **on our website**.

Hearing Silence

Lecture by Prof. Ping-Chun Hsiung

12 November 2025 • 7 pm



12 November 2025 | 7 pm

Hearing Silence: Teaching and Studying the Politics of Qualitative Interviewing

Lecture by Prof. Ping-Chun Hsiung (University of Toronto)

Register **on our website**.

SAVE THE DATE

13 November 2025

Lecture as part of the series *trans*denken. Perspektiven aus Psychotherapie, Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, organized by Queer IPU.

Further information on our website soon.

14 November 2025 | 2 pm

Get your dream job in Germany I: Successful Job Search and Application

Info event by IPU's Career Service for all IPU students.

Register **here**.

18 November 2025 | 7 pm

Lecture by Assaf Uni as part of the series *Bilder, Bewältigung & Erinnerungskulturen*

Organized by IPU Berlin in collaboration with AMCHA e. V.

Register **on our website**.

19 November 2025 | 2 pm

Career Day: People and Organisations in Transition – Shaping the Future of Work Together.

Open to all IPU students

Program and registration **here**.

19 November 2025 | 7 pm

Eine Sprache der Liebe. Über die Interspezieskommunikation von Pferd und Mensch in ihren Schnittstellen zur psychoanalytischen Theorie und Behandlungspraxis

Reading and discussion with authors Dr. Loretta Würtenberger and Hubertus Graf Zedtwitz, moderated by Prof. Benigna Gerisch.

Register **on our website**.

IPU's information event for prospective students

Register now.



20 November 2025 | 5 pm

IPU information evening for prospective students

Register [on our website](#).

21 November 2025 | 2 pm

Get your dream job in Germany II: Master Job Interview and Salary Negotiation

Info event by IPU's Career Service for all IPU students.

Register [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

21 November 2025 | 8 pm

Wenn der Körper zu Stein wird. Konzepttheoretische Untersuchungen über die Verkörperungen der Psyche und den Bedeutungsverlust des Leibes

Lecture by Henri Armke, organized by the IPU Berlin Fundraiser's Association.

Further information will be available on our website soon.

26 November 2025 | 6 pm

Psyche und Gesellschaft in Zeiten der Regression. Perspektiven psychoanalytischer Sozialforschung

Public lecture by Prof. Vera King (SFI Frankfurt) to mark the launch of the IPU's internal *Forschungslabor plus*.

Register [on our website](#).

27 November 2025

Forschungslabor plus

University symposium at the IPU Berlin.

Further information [in the InfoCenter](#).

SAVE THE DATE

1 December 2025

Sozialpsychologie des Autoritären

Prof. Christine Kirchhoff in conversation with Dr. Markus Brunner.

Further information will be available soon on our website.

10 December 2025 | 7 pm

Public psychoanalysis for today: Why Erich Fromm matters

Erich Fromm Lecture 2025 with Prof. Neil MacLaughlin.

Register [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

11 December 2025

Lecture as part of the series *trans*denken. Perspektiven aus Psychotherapie, Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, organized by Queer IPU.

Further information on our website soon.

16 December 2025

Closing lecture as part of the series *Bilder, Bewältigung & Erinnerungskulturen*

Organized by the IPU Berlin in collaboration with AMCHA e. V.

Further information on our website soon.

Are you planning or organizing an IPU Berlin event?

Use our new form in the InfoCenter to register your event. All links and information [can be found here](#).

Change of View from the TV tower

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

Wanderlust is a horizontally conceived term, at least in the "generally accepted" use, whereby this attribute fits wonderfully. But it also occurs in a vertical sense, as striving upward, e. g., into the infinity of space. Above all, neo-futuristic works of art and buildings from the 1960s, after the Sputnik decade, represent this longing. At least, that's how many East Germans looked at the Berlin TV tower before climbing its dome (or rather, sphere). For a moment, the tower offered the opportunity to "look past" the Wall and catch a glimpse of the western part of the city. From up there, it continued beyond the Brandenburg Gate, to the Tiergarten, the Victory Column, the former congress center (the "pregnant oyster") and the Reichstag close by, and far beyond to the older, much more modest radio tower on the exhibition grounds.

Yes, the television tower unintentionally directed wanderlust across the border fortifications, a special kind of radio tower... this was made apparent by the fact that visitors to the platform usually crowded on the west-facing side of the sphere.

***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.*



Today, looking in the same direction, one first sees the Hohenzollern Palace, which, since its reconstruction as the Humboldt Forum, has taken on the "form of the Berlin Palace" and helplessly attempts to live up to this figure. The ruling house gives the east the cold shoulder – a concrete wall with a few windows attached to the baroque façade, facing the tower in its merciless banality. Or was it perhaps unconsciously intended that the view from there should once again fall on a wall?

In any case, I was up there again recently, looking out over the city, and saw hardly any traces of the division, no matter where my eye lingered, as the platform slowly rotated. Fewer and fewer people will be looking for it in the near future—fortunately.

What remains is an architectural and technological masterpiece in the middle of the wasteland of Alexanderplatz. Even today, one would like to tip one's hat to those who conceived of, planned, and built it. Of course, it was also a symbol of superiority over the West, with what was then the second-tallest television tower in the world; only the one in Moscow was allowed to tower above it. When the sun shines at a certain angle on the stainless-steel prisms of the sphere, the reflection creates a giant cross that can be seen even from a distance. That's why the tower was called "Saint Ulbricht," although the architect is quoted as saying that it was just a "plus for socialism"...

Welcome to the IPU Berlin

Prof. Thorsten Peetz began his professorship in the field of work and organizational psychology this month.

Paul Obermeyer has been conducting research as a research associate with Prof. Phil C. Langer since October.

Inanna Berger joined Wiebke Stelling's Quality Management and Organizational Development team at the beginning of this month.

Is there anything missing?

We look forward to your feedback on our newsletter. We welcome topics, criticism, and suggestions **by email**. Feel free to recommend our newsletter to others. You can subscribe [here](#).

