

Dear subscribers,

here you will find the latest news from the IPU Berlin, information on upcoming **Events** and the monthly **Column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

The IPU Berlin is pleased to announce the start of applications for the new excellent and innovative **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's program in Social Psychology of Transformation (SPOT)**. The European Union-funded program combines the strengths of seven European universities and offers students a unique and contemporary curriculum starting from the winter semester 2025/2026. Further information can be found **on the SPOT website**.

Our new master program.

Apply now.

spot SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
OF TRANSFORMATION

BURN, which stands for "Boosting University Psychological Resilience and Wellbeing in (Post) War Ukrainian Nation", is a European network funded by the European Union that aims to strengthen psychological capacities at Ukrainian universities. Recently, the IPU Berlin hosted 17 colleagues from the network. Under the direction of **Prof. Lars Kuchinke**, the experts engaged in discussions with representatives of psychosocial institutions, such as Krisenchat. Read more about the visit **on our website**.

The **Motivational and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (MOCON Lab)** at the IPU Berlin investigates the neuronal basis of human abilities. The lab is home to numerous research projects and is headed by **Prof. Christine Stelzel**. Get to know the lab and the team better **on our website**.

In our Spotlight, you can read about the visit of former Federal President **Joachim Gauck** to the IPU Berlin. He came to talk to **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz** and the psychoanalyst **Thomas Abel** and **Ulrike Vetter**, psychoanalyst and first chairwoman of the DGPT Landesverband Berlin, at the joint invitation of the DGPT and the IPU. **Prof. Leonie Kampe** has developed a **questionnaire for the Empirical Investigation of Defense Mechanisms (FEUA)**.

IPU students can apply for a **Deutschlandstipendium**. The next application phase for the summer semester 2025 starts in December 2024. More information will be available soon **on our website**.

Erich Fromm Lecture 2024

with Prof. Michael Thompson • 4 December



Events

23 November 2024 | 10 am to 4 pm

The Climate Crisis and the Human Condition

Workshop with psychoanalyst Paul Hoggett (Bristol) as part of the Green Office series *Zwischen Wissenschaft und Widerstand: Perspektiven auf die Klimakrise*.

Further information **on our website**.

27 November 2024

Research Forum

Further information **in the EventCal**.

Are you planning or organizing an event at the IPU Berlin?

Use **this form in the InfoCenter**, ideally up to four weeks before the event date. This will ensure that your event is included in the calendar of events and can be promoted in good time.

28 November 2024

Info Session for Prospective Students

Further information **on our website**.

4 December 2024 | 7 pm

Erich Fromm Lecture 2024

With Prof. Michael Thompson (New York).

Further information **on our website**.

11 December 2024 | 7 pm

Library Talk: Why Psychosis Is Not So Crazy

With Dr. Leon S. Brenner and Stijn Vanheule.

Register **on our website**.

Casus Muri

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

Recently, former German President Joachim Gauck was a guest at the IPU. At the invitation of the DGPT and the IPU, he spoke with us about shocks and fears on the occasion of 9 November – a day steeped in history for Germany. It commemorates the November Revolution of 1918, the Pogrom Night of 1938, as well as the peaceful revolution of 1989, often referred to as the "fall of the Wall", as if the wall had suddenly "fallen down".

The freedom regained by the people of East Germany after the "fall" of the Wall, which had been denied to them for 40 years, was and still is an immense win. This is also personally relevant for me, as I spent exactly half of my life in the GDR and the other half "in the West" but topographically in the same location. So, I know what people mean when they talk about 9 November 1989: basic civil rights, completely new opportunities for participation, unhindered exchange with others, mutual respect and diversity of opinion, co-creation, and taking responsibility.

***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.*



But not all East Germans see it that way; many struggle with the new, initially acclaimed freedom. New fears have quickly emerged, often based on tangible experiences: fear of the devaluation of individual life plans, fear of social decline, of cultural alienation and more – in the form of various projections or compensations. Many experience the price of freedom as a loss of security, and thus, the established practice of blaming others for one's own dissatisfaction is reinforced rather than overcome. If such a feeling goes hand in hand with disdain for democracy, freedom is once again in danger. When asked about the disillusionment that followed the euphoria of the reunification of East and West, Gauck responded with the succinct remark "First comes the wedding, then the marriage".

Democracy only works through commitment – through active participation. You are not "included". Rather, you must actively get involved. But democracy is also not something that people have to be constantly taught about and that threatens exclusion if the desired insights are missing. Democracy wants to be experienced on a daily basis and enable tangible participation, which it then demands. This in turn presupposes that politicians take our everyday concerns seriously and do not rule over our heads.

Svitlana Nikolaienko started working in the International Office in November. **Jana Pape-Stegelmann** joined the Outpatient Clinic team this month as a new psychotherapist.

Welcome to the IPU Berlin.

