

Dear subscribers,

We are wishing you a wonderful New Year and hope your January has started off well. Here you can find the latest news from IPU Berlin, details on upcoming **events** and the monthly **column** by IPU President **Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**.

The inauguration of the **Center for Humanistic Ethics**, affiliated with the Erich Fromm Study Center at IPU Berlin, is scheduled for 8 February 2024. The opening event will feature a lecture by Christian Felber on the Economy for the Common Good. The establishment of this center marks a significant step in advancing research on issues related to social, work, and organizational psychology. For further details about the event and the Erich Fromm Center, please **visit our website**.

The IPU Berlin is currently promoting a **doctoral scholarship** offered by the Foundation to Promote University Psychoanalysis. This opportunity is designed for IPU Berlin graduates and remains open until 17 March 2024. Additional details about the scholarship are available in the **InfoCenter**.

Prof. Benigna Gerisch and **Prof. Andreas Hamburger** of IPU Berlin will be participating in the conference „Final destination? - Depression between destruction and longing,“ organized by the Academy for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy Munich e. V. on 15 and 16 March 2024. Further details are available on **the event's website**. Additionally, our **spotlights** provide updates on recent publications by Prof. Leonie Kampe and IPU lecturer Thomas Loer.

Online information event for prospective students

26 January 2024 • 5 pm



Events

26 January 2024 | 5 pm

Online information evening for prospective students.

Registration **on our website**.

26/27 January 2024

Operationalised Psychodynamic Diagnostic (OPD-CA)

Online workshop hosted by Prof. Annette Streeck-Fischer and Jenny Kaiser

Register **on our website**.

8 February 2024 | 7pm

Inauguration of the Center for Humanistic Ethics

Featuring a lecture by Christian Felber on the topic of the Economy for the Common Good.

Further information **on our website**.

The Horror of Lehnitzsee

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

I so would have liked to have a lighthearted column here once again, about which you could laugh or amusedly shake your head. But right now, there's something preying on my mind that is in no way humorous. In a house on Lehnitzsee once owned by Lous Adlon, there was a recent meeting of radical right-wing supporters, at which, among other things, they discussed the possibility of a mass deportation of immigrants and refugees from Germany. The “model state” in Africa, where they should all be sent, eerily reminds one of the Warsaw Ghetto.

This was alarming for countless people, and there were protests against the Right in many German cities. But is that enough? Just one week after the publication of the research by *Correctiv*, the Berliner Ensemble put on a dramatic reading about (and partially from) the obscure “Master Plan” by the extreme right-wing, nationalist activists. On one hand, one wants to congratulate them on the performance, but on the other hand, one must ask whether there is not already a bit too much staccato in play. Is it perhaps the case that such reports and commentaries, which only try to top each other, just bring on fatigue at this point? Is it being made too easy for the AfD, from whose standpoint it is only counterpropaganda that is being produced? Federal state elections in several states are coming up, and under no circumstances should we allow tiredness and tedium to set in.

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.



The resolute stand being made by broad sections of the population against the enemies of democracy does not release politicians or the media from their responsibility to critically reflect on the origins of such right-wing resonance. The political and social background, which has led more and more people to feeling unsatisfied and helpless, requires a more in-depth (and scientific) analysis. The farmers who came to Berlin with their tractors are just the tip of the iceberg. It is therefore understandable – as recently reported by *SPIEGEL* – that participation by members of the federal cabinet in the demonstrations is viewed critically.

Government and parliament often concern themselves with topics that have relatively little to do with people on the street. They “solve” problems, which are not relevant to them. In this place of conflict, it cannot be a surprise that views on immigration policies, for example, are as diverse as the potential consequences (or lack thereof) they pose – a local mayor is after all likely to be confronted with completely different challenges than a member of the Federal Parliament in Berlin.

If increasingly more people no longer feel their concerns are taken seriously or their work valued, and then believe there is no other political platform to represent them than the AfD, then above all else, this should be the thing to shake the democratic parties awake.

