



Dear IPODI Fellows,
Dear IPODI Alumnae,
Dear (International) Postdocs,

the second issue of the IPODI Post-Doc Newsletter introduces IPODI Fellow Dr. Kateřina Lišková and her research project at the Center for Interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies (ZIFG). Furthermore it features an interview with Prof. Dr. Angela Ittel, TU Berlin's Vice President for international relations on the university's internationalization strategy. Enjoy reading! Please forward this newsletter to everyone who may be interested in it. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter please send an e-mail to elke.gehweiler@tu-berlin.

With best regards,
Elke Gehweiler, IPODI Office

* IPODI People *

Dr. Kateřina Lišková

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"Sex is public!" In her research project *Sexuality, expertise, and power in state socialist East Central Europe* IPODI Fellow Kateřina Lišková examines sexology under communism focusing on Czechoslovakia during the second half of the 20th century. Her project analyses how "sexpertise" changed over time in connection with the political climate. Lišková challenges an understanding of sex as "the most intimate matter in the world", highlighting how sex is shaped by public discourses.

Further information:

http://www.ipodi.tu-berlin.de/ipodi/ipodi_fellows_alumnae/

* Interview *

TU Berlin: Diverse and International

Professor Dr. Angela Ittel, Vice President for International Relations and Teacher Education describes TU Berlin's internationalization strategy



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The TU Berlin sees itself as a university with a strong international character. What does this international character consist of?

The proportion of international students at the TU Berlin is far above average (around 20%). There are many instances of international cooperation in terms of research, and we have a large number of international guest researchers. All these things contribute to making the TU Berlin a very international university. More than 130 nations are represented on campus, and in recent years the amount of high-quality transnational cooperation in the fields of research and teaching has increased significantly.

More and more I see it as one of my primary obligations as Vice President for International Relations and Teacher Education to see that the international character does not only consist of attracting the best minds. What I want to do is facilitate teaching, learning and working together, so that this international cultural diversity and openness is something all members of the university can take part in, contribute to and profit from. One of my main tasks is to initiate and implement measures to ensure that our research and other activities contribute to the development of the international skills and intercultural competence of all the members and guests of our university while

promoting an exchange of global and cross-cultural ideas and experiences here in Berlin.

You are the Vice President responsible for international relations. Where do you see opportunities for expansion and improvement? How do you want to further enhance the international character of the TU Berlin?

My internationalization strategy for our university follows two guiding principles in order to make the TU even more international:

(1) We want to preserve our successful international cooperation activities in the areas of research and teaching. We want to expand on this in a targeted way in those areas where we can make research and teaching mutually beneficial as equal partners. We are putting special emphasis on our five strategic partner universities (Warsaw University of Technology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Politecnico di Milano, Technische Universität Wien, and St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University) and other key institutional partners.

(2) At the same time we see it as our job to put the university in a position to provide all TUB-members with the best possible conditions for work, study and research in this diverse and international environment. „Internationalization@Home“ is the name we have given to this important strategic objective and our efforts to enhance the international character of our university here in Berlin. „Internationalization@Home“ applies to all areas of our university. It covers the academic curriculum and the interactions between local and international TUB members, for example in the regular meetings of the newly established TU Berlin Intercultural Club, or TUBIC for short. It includes our focus on research areas of particular international relevance as well as the introduction of various services such as seminars on intercultural communication and cooperation, the translation service, exchange programs and language training for employees. In this context, what is most important to me is the experience gained by all students, employees and teachers of our university here in Berlin without having to travel around world. I want the TU Berlin to be a place that is known for its basic philosophy of being non-discriminatory, open and international in terms of research and teaching approaches and of operations at all levels.

In addition, it is my stated goal that the internationalization of our university be perceived as something we need and we see as a necessary advantage, rather than as an additional burden in everyday university life.

In the context of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) re-audit, the TU Berlin began developing an action plan for internationalization in January 2015. The Academic Senate has recently adopted the plan. What are the key measures for becoming more international and diverse that will be implemented by the TU in the coming years?

Internationalization and the HRK re-audit support the overall development strategy for our university mainly by contributing significantly to raising its profile and increasing its global visibility. I would be happy to summarize the objectives of the action plan:

As a university of technology with international standards, we want to actively seek the best staff, students and researchers from around the world and be an attractive place for education, research and work. Everyone should feel welcome regardless of geographical or national origin. Everyone should be able to acquire the technical and social skills needed to succeed in an increasingly international labor market and to shape the increa-

singly global issues of the future.

As an internationally renowned research institution, we also strive to continue to expand our international top-level research while taking into consideration innovative global opportunities for cooperation. International exchange, transnational networks and the increasing diversity of the TU members not only complement our current teaching and research profile, but encourage innovative solutions by providing multiple perspectives. They also increase our visibility in the international academic community. In the future, internationality will more and more be a principle that defines us as an institution and guides our daily work. We should therefore always view processes and the organization of the university at all levels from the perspective of ongoing internationalization and shape them accordingly, especially in the administration as a support structure for high quality research and teaching. International students and academics should feel that they are welcome and receive good support at the TU Berlin. In the medium term, all administrative services will be offered in both German and English. In the future, the TU Berlin wants to continue to be attractive to both German and international students as a place to get an education. In the context of increasing student mobility, for us this means primarily the expansion of English-language course offerings, especially in the master's programs, the internationalization of our curricula and corresponding further training for the teaching and administrative staff.



Prof. Angela Ittel welcoming the new IPODI Fellows from the third call for applications at the third public IPODI Colloquium on 7 November 2016

But this also includes offering our students opportunities to gain international and inter-cultural experience at the TU Berlin itself and/or at our partner institutions as part of their course of study.

The TU Berlin actively seeks to hire outstanding researchers from around the world to advance the university in its international orientation not only by their excellence in their field, but also by the broad range of experience they have. Simultaneously, the international mobility of our academic staff should play a bigger role in our efforts to promote young researchers and in general staff development. We continue to actively support our academic staff in participating in international research networks and acquiring the funding that is important for this. In the future, our non-academic staff should receive even more targeted support for their work at an international university in the form of international exchange opportunities as well as intercultural and language training.

You are not only responsible for international relations, but have also been the executive board member responsible for the areas of gender and diversity since October 2016. What is most important to you in that field?

We are starting to develop a diversity concept, as we are obliged to do in the framework of the university contracts. I see integrating diversity as a basic principle in a more forceful and visible way as a necessary structural requirement for our university.

After extensive and constructive discussions, we have defined diversity as an umbrella concept that encompasses the dimensions of gender and internationality, but is not limited to that.

Other important criteria must now be developed together with the members of the TU Berlin over the course of the next few weeks and months in order to reach a common definition with university-wide support as well as objectives within the framework of a plan to be drafted. For me, the guiding principles of fundamental importance are understanding diversity as a resource for all areas of our institution and seeing our university as promoting equal access to education, information and support. For that reason, I currently also like to speak of it as an equality plan. In particular, with respect to gender, it is, of course, important to me that we continue our successful work in the field of gender equality and advancement of women, not just in the STEM subjects, and that we constantly evaluate our efforts and adapt them to the needs of the moment.

The main measures of the HRK re-audit that are already being implemented:

- Establishing the internationalization strategy in the dean's offices,
- Strengthening internal communication and exchange on internationalization,
- Strengthening international structures (establishing an International Affairs Office),
- Setting up a database for the recognition of academic work done abroad,
- Improving language learning opportunities for students,
- Expanding the range of international courses of study,
- Expansion of English-language course offerings,
- Expansion of the TU Berlin Summer University,
- Opening university enrollment to refugees,
- Promoting networking among all students (TUBIC),
- Making use of our representation in Brussels for internationalization and research funding,
- Improving the chances of success when applying for ERC grants,
- International staff recruitment (for example, by publishing job announcements for academic positions internationally),
- Development and improvement of the welcome service,
- Offering online services, administrative forms and information in English,
- Establishment of a centralized translation service,
- Training in intercultural competence and knowledge,
- Promotion of staff mobility,
- Establishment of a certificate of intercultural competence.



The interview with Prof. Ittel originally appeared in: [news - GENDER | POLITIK | UNIVERSITÄT: Alle sind anders. Vielfalt und Gleichstellung an Hochschulen, 2/2016](#) (translated into English by the Translation Service of the TU Berlin).

* Services for Mobile Researchers *

TU Berlin's Welcome Centre for International Visiting Researchers

The Welcome Centre provides assistance to visiting researchers before and during their stay at TU Berlin. Their [Welcome Brochure](#) provides an overview of living in Berlin and working at TU Berlin.

http://www.tu-berlin.de/abz/menue/internationale_gastwissenschaftler/parameter/en/

Research in Germany

Website with information on the German research landscape, on jobs and funding opportunities and on living and working in Germany.

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/>

EURAXESS

Pan-European online portal delivering information and support services to professional researchers. Backed by the European Union and its Member States the portal provides information on jobs and funding opportunities and on living and working in Europe.

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

Find Your Pension

Online portal for internationally mobile researchers that aims at removing obstacles to the mobility of researchers employed in the public sector with regard to their pensions.

<https://www.findyourpension.eu/en>

RESAVER

Recently launched Pan-European Pension Plan that enables internationally mobile employees to remain with the same pension arrangement when moving between countries and when changing jobs.

<http://www.resaver.eu/>

* Dates and Events *

24 April 2017: The European Research Council (ERC), Information Event for Female Researchers, 1 pm–3 pm

The European Research Council (ERC) supports innovative frontier research in Europe through open competition. The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence both of the project and of the Principal Investigator. The ERC's funding schemes cover all scientific fields across all established disciplinary boundaries. In particular, interdisciplinary or pioneering proposals addressing emerging fields and introducing unconventional („high risk – high gain“) approaches are encouraged. The ERC is part of Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The event addresses all female researchers (doctoral students about to complete their PhD, postdocs, (junior) professors) who are interested in applying for an ERC grant in the future.

For further information download the agenda [here](#).