

## **Erich Fromm and the Berlin International Psychoanalytic University**

The willingness of our new Honorary Member Karl Schlecht to promote the reception of Erich Fromm's scientific contributions in the academic world has spawned a partnership with the private International Psychoanalytic University (IPU) in Berlin.

Being a most ingenious engineer, Karl Schlecht developed the beton pump and became world leader producing them. Yet his interests are not only of technical nature. He sponsors the idea of "world

ethics" and he is a great friend of Fromm's psychoanalytic and social psychological ideas of character formation and its application to ethics in economy and leadership.



Besides other initiatives (for example supporting the digitalization of parts of the Fromm Archive) Schlecht particularly wants to further the reception of Fromm's psychoanalytic ideas in the academic world. Considering the fact that psychoanalysis and dynamic concepts of psychology are more and more displaced from the curricula of the training facilities at universities and – sad to say – is at the most no longer part of the

bachelor and master courses, students usually do not get in contact with psychoanalysis and in the sequel with Fromm's scientific contributions any more.

This development lead to the foundation of the private International Psychoanalytic University in Berlin where bachelor and master students get also acquainted with psychoanalytic concepts and – this are the news – shall get acquainted with Erich Fromm's concept of personality and with his theoretical and methodological discoveries concerning social psychology and their impact for ethical and therapeutic trainings.

From fall 2013 on Erich Fromm's concept of personality and his social psychological theory and empirical research methods will be lectured in the bachelor and master courses offered by the IPU.

### **First International Erich Fromm Research Conference**

June 26-28, 2014 a First International Erich Fromm Research Conference will take place at the IPU in Berlin. Invited are specialists in Fromm and Frommian topics from all over the world to present their research findings (in 20 minutes presentations) and to discuss the need for more research in Frommian ideas and concepts and its applications. The conference language will be English. Subsidies for travel costs and the stay in Berlin will be provided upon application. A second research conference is planned for 2017.

If you are interested to take actively part in this first research conference don't hesitate to contact Rainer Funk ([frommfunk@gmail.com](mailto:frommfunk@gmail.com)) to indicate your interest and to mention the research topic you would like to present. A specified invitation will follow in June 2013.