

# Neuroethics Society

www.neuroethicssociety.org — September, 2009

## Call for Papers Foretell an Extended Neuroethics Literature

Martha J. Farah, N.S. Newsletter Editor

Over the summer we received two "Calls for Papers," or CFPs, as they are known in the humanities world. We reprint them in their entirety here, because we think they will be of interest to NS members and because they make interesting reading in their own rights!

NS members come mostly from backgrounds in the natural and social sciences, but if these CFPs are an indication, scholars in the humanities are also developing an interest in neuroscience and its influence on our lives.

### CFP: The Neuroscientific Turn in the Humanities and Social Sciences

From economics to English, religious studies to recreation, neuroscience has become the latest theoretical tool for analyzing society and culture. While there has been some backlash against this trend, research continues to emerge in areas of neurotheology, neuromarketing,

neuroethics, neuroaesthetics, the neuro-humanities, and neurohistory to name but a few. We are seeking essays for an edited collection that analyze and interrogate this recent neuroscientific turn in the humanities and social sciences. We are particularly interested to hear from researchers who apply the neuro- to their own disciplinary work.

Essays might engage with the following questions: why has there been a shift to using neuroscience as an epistemological framework and/or theoretical tool in the humanities and social sciences? What kind of arguments does it allow / foreclose / refute? How is this trend related to the "decade of the brain"? How do visualization technologies like fMRI shape or limit the neuroscientific turn? Is the neuroscientific turn interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary? What are the rights and responsibilities of such inter/cross/multiple-disciplinary research? Should this neuro- research fall under the

purview of neuroethics? What roles do print and digital media play in the development and distribution of this trend? Why and how do the humanities and the social sciences need the neurosciences? What can the neurosciences learn from this trend in the humanities and the social sciences? How might these fields combine into a discipline of their own?

Related fields include:

- Neuroaesthetics
- Social Neuroscience (neuro-anthropology/sociology)
- Neuroethics (philosophy and bioethics)
- Neurohumanities
- Neuroeconomics
- Neuromarketing
- Neurotheology (spiritual neuroscience)
- Neurohistory
- Neuropolitics
- Neuropsychology
- Neuropsychiatry

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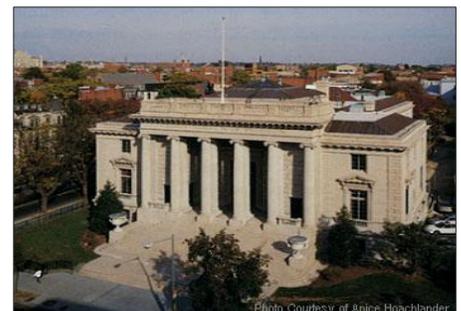
## 2010 Meeting: Report from the Program Chair

Turhan Canli, N.S. Executive Committee

Preparations for the 2010 annual meeting are well underway. The program committee (Turhan Canli, Mark S. Frankel, Tamami Fukushi, Judy Illes, Klaus-Peter Lesch, Alvaro Pascual-Leone, Adina Roskies) includes members from the U.S., Canada, Germany, and Japan, and has been working on program ideas since April of 2009. We are planning a 2-day meeting that will host around 5-6 panels, workshops and debates. Topic areas will be based on member proposals, but have not yet been finalized. We also plan to invite submissions for poster presentations (details to be announced at a later date) and look forward to welcoming you all at the Opening Reception!

### Official 2010 NS meeting hotels are now posted on the website.

Discounted room rates are available but you must book using our discount code. The Holiday Inn (1501 Rhode Island Ave, NW) and The Double Tree Hotel Washington, DC (1515 Rhode Island Ave, NW) are offering special rates for NS meeting attendees. Visit [neuroethicssociety.org](http://neuroethicssociety.org) for booking information and links.



*Carnegie Institution for Science  
Site of the 2010 NS Meeting*

## Neuroethics Event Calendar

Please check our website for the most up-to-date listings.

September 11 – **Technology, Neuroscience, and the Nature of Being.** United Nations, NYC, 9-6pm. Open to the public.  
[http://www.nourfoundation.com/cms/front\\_content.php](http://www.nourfoundation.com/cms/front_content.php)

September 16 - **The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Japan Neuroscience Society.** Nagoya, Japan. There will be a symposium including neuroethics of Brain-Machine Interface (BMI) organized by Jun-ichi Usiba (Keio University) and other neuroscientist. Osamu Sakura will present as a symposist. <http://www.congre.co.jp/neurosci2009/english/index.html>

September 16-18 — **VITAL POLITICS III: The Politics of the Life Sciences in an ‘Age of Biological Control,’** London School of Economics and Applied Science. The BIOS Centre for the Study of Bioscience, Biomedicine, Biotechnology and Society is organizing an international conference on 16-18 September 2009 with the aim of providing a comparative and global perspective on present forms of practice in the life sciences. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BIOS>

September 18 — **Studies on Consciousness and the Dignity of the Human Person,** Rome, Italy. by Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum, Faculties of Bioethics and Philosophy, Master in Science and Faith, Rome  
It is the first workshop of the recently founded Neurobioethics Group of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, Italy. Four speakers will speak on the consciousness and the human dignity.  
The event will be introduced by Adriana Gini, neuroradiologist and bioethicist, who is the coordinator of the Neurobioethics group.  
<http://www.uprait.org/>

September 20-27 — **The Social Self: Summer School in Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind.** Alghero, Italy. Application deadline has passed. The aim of the summer school is to provide a limited number of qualified students with the opportunity to attend short-courses of six hours (two hours each day), as well as main lectures of two hours (one hour talk, one hour discussion), focused on the analysis of the social roots of the Self Research presentations and discussions sessions will allow researchers and students to share knowledge and interact.  
<http://www.sei.architettura.uniss.it/summerschoolthesocialself>

September 23 — **Technologically Shaping Selves: Ethics and the Pursuit of Enhancement,** Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. At least since the publication of Peter Kramer's book "Listening to Prozac", there has been a lively public debate in the US about using medical technologies to make us "better than well." Some critics argue that "enhancement technologies" (whether pharmacological, surgical, or genetic) threaten to alienate us from who we really are. Some enthusiasts argue that these technologies will enable us to become more fully who we really are.  
[http://www.noveltechethics.ca/site\\_events.php?page=421](http://www.noveltechethics.ca/site_events.php?page=421)

September 24-25 — **Brain Matters : New Directions in Neuroethics Conference,** Nova Scotia, Canada. Speakers include David Healy (Wales), Walter Glannon (CA), James Bernat (US) and Barbara Sahakian (UK). For more information, please see  
[http://www.noveltechethics.ca/site\\_brainmatters.php](http://www.noveltechethics.ca/site_brainmatters.php)

October 8 — **Barbara J. Sahakian: Cognitive Enhancing Drugs: Neuroscience and Society,** University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA. Penn Neuroethics Program 09 Talk Series: Barbara J. Sahakian: University of Cambridge, UK. Talks take place in the Conference Room at the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, 3810 Walnut Street, at the University of Pennsylvania.

October 13 — **President's Lecture of the Royal Society by Dr. Barbara Sahakian.** London.

October 16 — **ASBH Neuroethics Affinity Group,** Chicago, IL, USA. The ASBH Neuroethics Affinity group meeting will occur at 11:45 am on October 16, 2009. There will be networking opportunities as well as short research presentations. Several other neuroethics related presentations will also occur on the same day as part of the main program.

October 19 — **ASBH: David Kopf Lecture on Neuroethics,** Chicago, IL, USA. *Eyes Wide Open, Brain Wide Shut? (Un)Consciousness in the Vegetative State.* Speaker: Steven Laureys, MD, Ph.D. 10-11:10am.

October 19 – **ASBH: Presidential Special Lecture: Addiction and Self Control,** Chicago, IL, USA. *Addiction and Self-Control.* Speaker: Nora D. Volkow. 5:15-6:25pm.

October 18 — **ASBH: Social Issues Roundtable**, Chicago, IL, USA. 1-3:00pm. *Engaging the Public on Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Neuroscience Research*. Chaired by Alan Leshner.

October 26-31 — **ESF-COST Conference on Law and Neuroscience: Our growing understanding of the human brain and its impact on our legal system**, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy. The conference will strive to establish a dialogue between neuroscientists, legal practitioners, researchers in socio-legal studies and social scientists, to further mutual understanding and make some realistic evaluations of the potential developments at the intersection of neuroscience and law. More information (including programme and application form) available online at: [www.esf.org/conferences/09302](http://www.esf.org/conferences/09302)

November 14 — **Brain Matters: New Directions in Neuroethics**. Yokohama, Japan. There will be a symposium on "neuroethics" organized by Motomu Shimoda and Koichi Setoyama (Osaka University). Keynote lecture by Jonathan D. Moreno (University of Pennsylvania): "Neurotechnology and National Security: Recent Developments in the U.S." Symposiasts: Shigeru Mushiaki (Shujitsu University) and Tatsuya Mima (Kyoto University)

January 1, 2010 — **Call for Papers: Edited Volume on Neuroscience and Feminism**. With the recent advances in imaging and genetic technologies, the last decade has witnessed an explosion of work on human cognitive and affective functioning. Among some of the more publicized work is that on sex differences. Basing research on neuroscience lends studies particular credibility in the public mind, with the result that traditional gender characteristics and roles seem to take on a new credibility. There are, however, serious questions about how to interpret the evidence from neuroscience, an area that, in some respects, appears to be just as sensitive to preconceived notions of sex-differences as other fields. It is, therefore, time to apply a feminist perspective to this burgeoning field of study. More information: Robyn Bluhm, Old Dominion University [rbluhm@odu.edu](mailto:rbluhm@odu.edu) Anne Jacobson, University of Houston [anne.jacobson@mail.uh.edu](mailto:anne.jacobson@mail.uh.edu) Heidi Maibom, Carleton University [heidi\\_maibom@carleton.ca](mailto:heidi_maibom@carleton.ca)

### Attending the Society for Neuroscience this year? Put the SfN's first Neuroethics Social on your itinerary!

Thanks in part to the activism of the Neuroethics Society, the SfN has become an increasingly good meeting for neuroscientists interested in neuroethics. Last year the SfN introduced a new category for submitted papers, which gives a home to neuroethics submissions: "Ethical and Policy Issues in Neuroscience." This year, the SfN is sponsoring the first Neuroethics Social, where interested SfNers can gather for drinks, conversation, and a brief "program." This year's program will include a lively debate on the proposition that "brain imaging is already capable of (something worthy of the term) mind reading." Our debaters will include two of the best known proponents of the pro and con positions, John Dylan Haynes and Russell Poldrack. Many members of the NS governing board and other leading neuroethicists will also be on hand. So if you will be in Chicago on Tuesday, October 20th, come on by!

### Meeting round-up

Tom Heneghan, Religion editor at Reuters, filed this report from Penn's Neuroscience Boot Camp last month:

*Knowing what not to report is just as important for journalists as knowing what to write. We're inundated with handouts about some pioneering new scientific research or insightful new book. Should we write about it? It's refreshing to hear experts who can dazzle you with their work but warn against falling for any hype about it. This "let's not overdo it" approach has been a recurrent theme in the [Neuroscience Boot Camp](#) I'm attending at the [University of Pennsylvania](#) in Philadelphia.*

*After two days of explaining fMRI brain scanning, the sexiest procedure in current neurological research, [Geoff Aguirre](#) poured cold water on some of the exaggerated conclusions that researchers or journalists draw from it. When shown brain scan images, he said, "people immediately start thinking about trying to catch terrorists and being able to screen people as they pass through metal detectors." This is "science fiction, science fantasy," he said, but it comes up regularly.*

### Want to see your event listed here?

Events considered for listing in the newsletter and on the website are submitted online. To submit your event, visit our website and select "Resources" and then "Event Submission."

## Uncertainty is a Problem for Venezuelan Scientists

Featured commentary from INN member Gladys E. Maestre, MD., Ph.D.

*Science* and *Nature*, as well as *Newsweek*, have recently published articles and letters related to science policy in Venezuela, which have attracted international attention (Bifano, 2009; Casassus, 2009; Margolis, 2009; Chacon-Escamillo, 2009). In his letter to *Science*, Claudio Bifano, the president of the Venezuelan Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, noted specific changes in science policy as worrisome. Funding decisions are being made by administrative bodies, rather than based on peer reviews and there have been recent reductions in government funding for public universities that carry most of the scientific research, and an apparent lack of planning for faculty staffing for 40 recently announced new universities. He concluded that these policies are resulting in an increased Venezuelan brain drain.

In response, Jesse Chacon-Escamillo, the Venezuelan Minister of the Popular Power for Science, Technology, and Intermediate Industries, wrote a letter to *Science*: "Venezuelan Science: Making great strides." He stated that the number of registered scientists tripled from 1998 to 2008; that R&D now receives 2.69% of the gross domestic product; that the overall number of students, literacy rates, and internet access have increased; and that a national computer factory and an Academy of Free Software have been established to reduced the internet gap. Mr. Chacon-Escamillo denied that there is unusually high emigration of Venezuelan scientists.

To my mind, there is a fundamental problem with these articles and letters: one side is talking about apples, the other side about oranges. As in many points in history, the concept of science is different for scientists and for the government. To most scientists in the world, scientific research is the fuel of science. However, philosophers and other social scientists have argued that scientific research is only one way of advancing science (Feyrabend, P, 1975; Kuhn, 1962; Popper, 1979). Other approaches include theorization, chance discovery, technological innovation, critique of established science, and sharing of knowledge among different stakeholders (e.g., the insights of patients and caregivers about a disease) (Morles, 2001). Disagreement about the current state of Venezue-

lan science is not really about researchers or funding agencies having to choose between basic and applied science, or between relevant and "obscure" science. The disagreement is about what is required to advance knowledge, and how science can solve everyday critical problems. Venezuelan scientists argue that there are no requests for applications or peer review of proposals, and that funding is determined by non-scientists. From the government's perspective, these arguments do not constitute a valid critique of science policy, because indeed these are necessary steps if you want lay public—the people—to lead scientific activities, which is why Mr. Chacon-Escamillo probably do not see these as worrisome facts.

The government's concern is how to use science to accelerate social changes that will lead to their vision of a fair society without increasing dependency on first world countries. The scientists' primary concern is uncertainty about future support scientific research. How can they maintain a critical mass of scientists and the necessary infrastructure to carry out world-class research without opportunities to propose new research goals and approaches, and to receive feedback from their peers? From the government's perspective, it is now easier to do science in Venezuela. From the scientist's perspective, it is now more difficult to attract new talent to conduct research in Venezuela, to maintain public confidence in the benefits of research, and to disseminate research findings to the international scientific community.

For neuroscientists in Venezuela, the confronting view about the scientific research is particularly problematic. None of the brain disorders - stroke, autism, Alzheimer's disease, learning disabilities, depression, schizophrenia, brain tumors, or Huntington's disease - are listed as research priorities in the current National Science Plan. Nor did these disorders appear on the Mission Science priority list, the only health-related national research program, when four years ago, the last government request

for proposals was released.

Venezuela has a long history of making significant contributions to science. In order to maintain Venezuela's scientific productivity, the government and scientists need to resolve their different views. Scientists need to believe that the future of science in Venezuelan is not so uncertain. The impact of the science policy will extend far beyond Venezuelan scientists. We all hope, that biomedical research in Venezuela and allies in the region prevail over research with military objectives and that neuroscientists get the support needed to harness the fruits of modern science in favor of those that are victims of brain disorders.

(References for Dr. Maestre's commentary: Bifano C. 2009. Venezuelan science at risk. *Science* 324 (5934): 151; Casassus B. 2009. Venezuela. As research funding declines, Chavez, scientists trade charges. *Science* 324 (5931): 1126-7; Chacón-Escamillo J. Venezuelan science: making great strides. *Science*. 2009: 325 (5940): 537; Feyrabend, P. 1975 Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge, London: Verso. ISBN 0-391-00381-X; Kuhn, T.S. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962. ISBN 0-226-45808-3; Margolis, M. 2009. Brain Drain from Venezuela. *Newsweek* (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/207382>); Morles, V. On science and technology: a critical analysis regarding some dominant concepts *Acta Científica Venezolana*, 52: 147-154, 2001; Popper, K Objective Knowledge: An Evolutionary Approach, 1972, Rev. ed., 1979, ISBN 0198750242)



## International Neuroethics Network (INN) Updates

Sofia Lombera, Outgoing INN Manager and Yemi Banjo, Incoming INN Manager



### LAUNCH OF THE 'NEUROETHICS REFERENCES AND RESOURCES' MATERIAL ON HEALTH SCIENCES ONLINE (HSO)

Over the last year members of the INN and the National Core for Neuroethics have been developing a neuroethics reference list for **Health Sciences Online (HSO)**; [www.hso.info](http://www.hso.info) with the goal of providing health professionals around the world with an overview of the field. The content was designed with special attention to key emerging topics in neuroethics and the neurologic and mental health challenges facing the developing world. Papers for the initial launch were selected from existing neuroethics syllabi available online, and supplemented by in-house expertise and the input of the Project's Advisory Board (thank you Professors Sahakian, Caplan, Racine and Maestrell!). The material is updated regularly.

The English version of 'HSO Neuroethics References and Resources' will go live on the HSO website in September 2009. We are in the process of translating the text to Spanish, French and Russian, and hope to make them available shortly as well.

Please send suggestions for continuing content, papers and topics to [hso.neuroethics@ubc.ca](mailto:hso.neuroethics@ubc.ca).

### UPDATES

#### INN at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual meeting

The annual INN breakfast will be held in the morning of Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 during the SfN annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Details about exact time and meeting location will be sent out shortly. Meanwhile, please hold the date.

#### New manager for the INN



Yemi Banjo

The INN now has a new manager. Yemi Banjo, B.Sc, M.Sc., joined the National Core for Neuroethics in June of 2009 as a Research Coordinator for the 'International Neuroethics: Enhancement, Drugs and Devices' study led by Dr. Peter Reiner (UBC) in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Metzinger (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz). She recently completed

a Master's degree in neuroscience at UBC during which she studied environmental neurotoxins in the etiology of ALS/Parkinsonism Dementia using a murine model. In addition to her work with Dr. Reiner, Yemi is interested in exploring the ethics and other challenges of clinical brain research in developing countries especially in Nigeria, her home country, and other parts of Africa. You can contact her at [ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca).

#### Farewell and Best Wishes



Sofia Lombera

Sofia Lombera writes: Over the past two years I have enjoyed being part of the INN and contributing to its development. Thank you to all those who have helped me along! I am leaving the National Core for Neuroethics to pursue a Master's degree in Biomedicine, Bioscience and Society at the London School of Economics (LSE). I hope to remain part of this vibrant neuroethics community as it continues to grow.

If you have any questions or comments please visit the INN website at [www.neuroethics.ubc.ca/INN](http://www.neuroethics.ubc.ca/INN) or contact Yemi Banjo at [ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca).

### Free course in Neuroethics and International Biolaw to be offered

Ana Rosa Amorim ([anartam@uol.com.br](mailto:anartam@uol.com.br)) is offering a free course titled **Neuroethics and International Biolaw**, where she will discuss how the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights can be applied to the field of neuroethics. She is linking two emerging areas: neuroethics and international biolaw and she is extending an invitation to join to the entire neuroethics community. The course can be accessed at <http://www.p2pu.org>. Please feel free to email Ana Rosa with comments and suggestions.

The Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU) is an [online community of open study groups for short university-level courses](http://www.p2pu.org). Think of it as online book clubs for open educational resources. The P2PU helps you navigate the wealth of open education materials that are out there, creates small groups of motivated learners, and supports the design and facilitation of courses. Students and tutors get recognition for their work, and we are building pathways to formal credit as well.

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Our mission is to promote the development and responsible application of neuroscience through interdisciplinary and international research, education, outreach and public engagement for the benefit of people of all nations, ethnicities, and cultures.

### Neil Levy, Governing Board Member, Honored with Australian Eureka Prize

*Excerpted from [thinkinaustralia.com](http://thinkinaustralia.com)*

Australia's leading scientists have been honoured with a string of top awards at glittering ceremony in Sydney, writes Nick Gibson. The annual 'Eureka Prizes' event hands out prestigious awards to honour Australians' world-beating scientific research. Stars such as Cate Blanchett mingled with luminaries including governor general Quentin Bryce, premier of New South Wales, Nathan Rees MP and TV newscaster Sandra Sully at Sydney's Royal Hall of Industries. The prizes were awarded by the Australian Museum. Nineteen prizes, worth \$180,000, reward research across many disciplines of science including science-related photography, journalism and teaching. Neil Levy of the University of Melbourne was awarded the Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics in a new area of philosophy called 'neuro-ethics'.

*Continued from page 1*

#### Deadline:

Please submit a 300 word abstract and a brief (1-3 pg) CV to both editors by Oct 30, 2009

#### Editors:

Melissa Littlefield, University of Illinois ([mml@illinois.edu](mailto:mml@illinois.edu))

Jenell Johnson, Louisiana State University ([jjohn@lsu.edu](mailto:jjohn@lsu.edu))

Final versions of the essays will be tentatively due by June 1, 2010

#### Call for Papers: Edited Volume on Neuroscience and Feminism

With the recent advances in imaging and genetic technologies, the last decade has witnessed an explosion of work on human cognitive and affective functioning. Among some of the more publicized work is that on sex differences. Basing research on neuroscience lends studies particular credibility in the public mind, with the result that traditional gender characteristics and roles seem to take on a new credibility. There are, however, serious questions about how to interpret the evidence from neuroscience, an area that, in some respects, appears to be just as sensitive to preconceived notions of sex-differences as other fields. It is, therefore, time to apply a feminist perspective to this burgeoning field of study.

We call for papers for an edited volume on neuroscience and feminism in areas including, but not limited to the following topics: (1) exploration of past stereotypes, (2) scientifically informed understanding of sex differences/similarities, (3) the exposure of androcentric biases that inform scientific research, (4) new scientifically informed perspectives on old feminist issues, (5) neuroscientific understanding of embodied experience, (6) understanding sex differences using animal models, (7) the neuroscience of ethical thinking, (8) pathologies, mental disorder, and sex differences. We encourage researchers from phi-

losophy, psychology, neuroscience, and cognitive science generally to submit.

The deadline for submission of manuscripts (maximum length 12,000 words) is January 1, 2010. We also encourage those interested in submitting a paper to contact us in advance of this deadline. Please also feel welcome to circulate this call for papers to colleagues who may be interested in contributing a paper.

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