

Call for Papers

“(Clinical) Neurotechnology meets AI: Philosophical, Ethical, Legal and Social Implications”

Date: *May 8-10, 2019*

Location: *Munich (Germany)*

Organizing Institution: *Project INTERFACES, Institute for Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine, LMU Munich (www.bci-ethics.de)*

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Paper submission: <http://bit.ly/neurotechsubmissions>

Imagine the coffee machine starts to brew your urgently needed morning coffee as soon as you *think* the command “start the coffee machine” while still in bed. Is that realistic? Is it desirable?

Neurotechnologies such as brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are no longer a futuristic dream or, depending on the viewpoint, a nightmare. They are subject of many research projects and their usability improves rapidly. Today, BCIs represent an important tool for a wide range of medical applications. For instance, they enable otherwise disabled patients to communicate by using a computer via brain activity. Beyond the medical context, they are used in the entertainment sector and developed for business applications. Moreover, it appears that with a similar technological apparatus of a brain-to-brain interface, a human brain can also be coupled with another human brain in order to transfer brain activity from one brain to cause brain activity in the other brain, e.g. to stimulate a movement.

At the same time, BCIs and other neurotechnologies stand in a relation with another emerging technology that cuts across many domains of technology use, i.e. Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI itself raises a host of original problems that can most aptly be summarized as “black box”-problems: It becomes increasingly difficult to supervise and control an AI’s operation because it manages its decision-making logic itself.

Moreover, the use of neurotechnologies and AI in combination elicits some further pressing philosophical, ethical, social and legal concerns, e.g.:

- How can we conceptualize agency, moral and legal responsibility and autonomy in intelligent neurotechnologies?
- What implications do BCIs and, even more so, BTBIs have for the concept of *acting together*?
- What consequences result in terms of mental privacy?
- Where is the normative borderline between curing illness, addressing disability and human enhancement, and what does it imply?
- What anthropological implications do neurotechnologies have?
- Are there particular legal or normative worries regarding the medical use of neurotechnologies?

- What are potential domains of application beyond medicine, e.g. the military? What are the ethical, legal and social implications in these contexts?
- What broader social implications result from the use of neurotechnologies in general?

The conference brings together a wide range of scholars with various disciplinary backgrounds (philosophy, law, social science, cognitive sciences, medicine) to discuss the multi-dimensional implications of neurotechnology and AI.

We invite scholars who wish to contribute to the conference to submit an **extended abstract with max. 1.000 words**. Presentations should be confined to 20 minutes presentation, followed by 20 minutes Q&A. We particularly wish to encourage young scholars to submit their work. The conference will be held in English.

Selected papers will be invited to contribute to a volume to be published later in 2019.

Deadline for submission is **January 15, 2019**. To submit your abstract, please visit <http://bit.ly/neurotechsubmissions> and follow the instructions provided. Acceptance notifications will be sent out no later than January 31, 2019. If accepted, the authors will be required to submit the **final paper ready for review for the conference volume by March 31, 2019** at the latest.

For more information please visit www.bit.ly/neurotechmeetsai