

# **The Future of Neuroenhancement: Morality, Memory & Love**

Workshop, Sat. April 20<sup>th</sup> 2013, Institute for Ethics, History and Theory of  
Medicine, University of Münster

## Invitation & Call for Comments

We warmly invite you to our Workshop on the future of Neuroenhancement, Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Institute for Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine, [University of Muenster](http://www.uni-muenster.de). (Also have a look at the Mind-Symposium the day before: [mind-symposium.de](http://mind-symposium.de)) We wish to broaden the perspective on mind-interventions, often focused on cognitive enhancement, and discuss theoretical, ethical and social aspects of interventions targeting moral psychological and memory processes as well as love and affection. We are very pleased to present talks by the following speakers:

**Julian Savulescu** (Director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics) will present some ideas of his new provocative and unsettling book “Unfit for the Future” (OUP 2012) in which he and his co-author Ingmar Persson seriously question the ability of liberal democracies to tackle pressing problems such as global warming and injustice. As many of today’s problems –and the inability to adequately cope with them– seem to be due to the make-up and evolutionary development of the psychological condition of humanity, they consider it an urgent imperative to enhance humankind’s moral character – if possible, through biotechnological interventions.

**Walter Glannon** (Professor of Philosophy University of Calgary, Canada) will explore different types of manipulated memory, from the tragic of Alzheimer’s disease to implanted artificial devices, and the neuroscientific, ethical and legal implications of such transformations to retell the past and anticipate the future.

**Anders Sandberg** (Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford) will address the neuroscience and neuroethics of love. Love is one of the most important emotions to us, yet until recently it was not very explored scientifically. As science reveals more about the brain processes underlying affection, bonding and empathy, we are gradually figuring out more and more about what happens in the brains as we fall in love. This research is not only telling us something about ourselves, but also suggesting that we might be able to influence our loves. This poses fascinating neuroethical questions: can love potions ever be ethical? Should we boost fading relationships, don’t we sometimes even have a duty to save wrecked relationships, e.g. parents towards their children? And what loves and dysfunctional relationships should we medicate against?

## Call for Comments

We wish to enable an extensive and critical discussion of the topics and will circulate papers related to the talks before. We would arrange the possibility to give ~10 min. comments on

the papers. If you are interested in commenting, we wish to encourage you, please drop us a line.

### **Registration**

Participation is free. As we have only limited space in the cozy Villa of the Institute and need to arrange catering, please register asap if you are interested in joining us at [workshop@neuroethik.org](mailto:workshop@neuroethik.org).

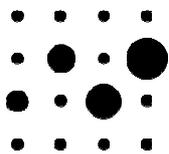
If you have any further questions, please write to [christoph.bublitz@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:christoph.bublitz@uni-hamburg.de)

### **MIND – SYMPOSIUM**

The workshop is held on the occasion of the Mind-Symposium in Muenster on the 19<sup>th</sup>, which is open to the public. More information can be found here: [www.mind-symposium.de](http://www.mind-symposium.de)  
Please come around!

### **Hosts**

The workshop is hosted by the research collaboration “Comparing Apples with Oranges”, a group of eight researchers from various disciplines, countries and institutions. In the last two years, we conducted empirical and theoretical research on neuroenhancements and hosted workshops in Berlin, Munich, Oxford and Hamburg. The project is based in the European Platform for Mind Sciences, Life Sciences & the Humanities, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The event is organized in cooperation with the Institute for Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine, University of Münster.



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