

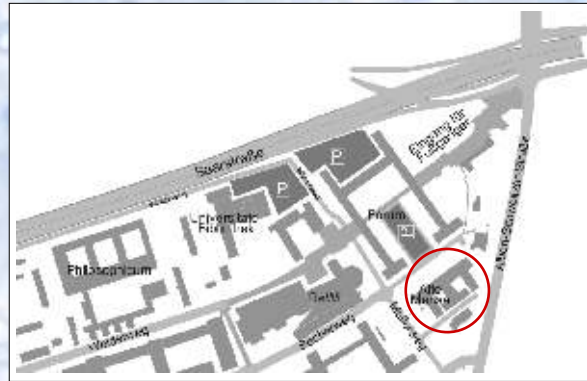


To gain access to complex matters regarding the brain, at the **Research Focus on Interdisciplinary Neurosciences** (Interdisziplinärer Forschungsschwerpunkt Neurowissenschaften, IFSN) specialists representing classical neurosciences as well as humanistic fields employing neuroscience knowledge and methods are brought together in an interdisciplinary network including **Molecular and Cellular Neurosciences, Clinical Neurosciences, Cognitive Psychology, Linguistics, Neurophilosophy and Visual Studies.**

Currently the major scientific focus lies on the aging brain in terms of ‚normal‘, i.e. non-pathological aging, from an interdisciplinary overall perspective. A particular concern of the IFSN is to set up rather young disciplines bridging natural sciences, medicine, and the humanities (Neuroethics, Neurolinguistics, Visual Studies).

The establishment of the field of **Neuroethics** at the Mainz University has been pursued by the IFSN for several years. Neuroethics - which combines research on the neuro-physiological basis of moral behavior as well as the applied ethics of neuroscience – has been coming up as a new scientific discipline in recent years, the ethical issues arising from the rapid progress in the neurosciences.

A so far unique project was the establishment of an open, centrally governed and supervised bibliography, which is kept complete and up-to-date by the neuroethics community itself – a ‚literature wikiography‘. This bibliography is the heart of the **Neuroethics Portal** maintained since 2007. The portal offers up-to-date information on projects, conferences and media articles plus a communication forum and a collection of interesting links as well. We invite you to participate on www.neuroethik.ifzn.uni-mainz.de.



Conference Venue
Alte Mensa, Linke Aula
Becherweg 5, Campus
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

We welcome all scientists, students and guests interested in the topic. There is no need for registration.

Contact and Information:
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Research Focus on Interdisciplinary Neurosciences

Interdisziplinärer Forschungsschwerpunkt Neurowissenschaften

COGNITIVE ENHANCEMENT
ETHICS AND SOCIETY

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 14th
14.00-18.30

MEETING 2010

Interdisziplinärer Forschungsschwerpunkt Neurowissenschaften



JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

PROGRAM

14.00 Welcome

PROF. DR. THOMAS METZINGER
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

14.15 Cognitive Enhancement - Empirical and Conceptual Issues

PROF. DR. THOMAS METZINGER
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

15.00 Neuropharmacological Cognitive Enhancement: Chances and Risks

PROF. DR. KLAUS LIEB
University Medical Center, JGU Mainz

15.45 Digging Deeper into the Neuroethics of Cognitive Enhancement

PROF. PETER B. REINER, VMD, PhD
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CAN

Coffee Break

16.45 Effects of the Regulatory Procedures in the German Healthcare System on the Diffusion of Enhancement

HANS-HOLGER BLESS
IGES Institute, Berlin

17.30 Arguments from Authenticity in the Debate on Neuro-Enhancement

PROF. DR. BETTINA SCHÖNE-SEIFERT
University Münster

Discussion

End around 18.30



Source: sxc.hu

The term **Cognitive Enhancement** refers to the use of new pharmaceuticals by healthy subjects in an attempt to improve certain aspects of one's cognitive abilities such as memory, concentration, attention, and alertness, possibly intending to optimize them permanently.

This raises the questions of which levels of intelligence and cognitive functioning - and which degree of cognitive impairment as a result of natural aging - should be considered 'normal', not just in an objective, statistical sense, but also in a normative sense reflecting our moral norms. In this context, problems begin with conceptual distinctions: When should a decline in cognitive abilities be considered pathological and when does age-related dementia require medical treatment? What is the difference between therapy and cosmetic psychopharmacology?

These concerns are based on fundamental considerations on medical objectives and possibilities to distinguish enhancement methods from medical treatment directed to therapy or prevention. The pivotal question may be whether, or under which circumstances, one is permitted to optimize one's own cognitive capabilities. Beyond evaluating this issue on the level of the individual the problem of distributive justice, and consequences for society as a whole have to be considered. Furthermore, specific ethical questions, concerning for instance the application of CE to underage persons, or military use, are subjects of discussion.

The Canadian-German research project '**Normality, Normalization and Enhancement in the Neurosciences: Ethical, Sociocultural and Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Cognitive Enhancement**' combines research efforts in

philosophy, psychiatry, neuroscience and medical ethics in view of Cognitive Enhancement (CE). Funding has been provided since 2008 to 2011 by the *German Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung* and the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*.

It consists of four sub-projects:

Ethical and anthropological aspects: Normality, normalization and cognitive enhancement from a philosophical perspective
Prof. Dr. Thomas Metzinger,
Philosophical Seminar, JGU Mainz (Coordinator)

International Neuroethics: Enhancement, Drugs and Devices
Prof. Peter B. Reiner, VMD, PhD,
National Core for Neuroethics, Department of Psychiatry & Brain Research Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Cognitive enhancement from a neuropsychiatric perspective
Prof. Dr. Klaus Lieb,
Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy,
University Medical Center, JGU Mainz

Normality, normalization and cognitive enhancement: The construction of knowledge, tools, and applications in the neurosciences from an epistemological perspective
Prof. Dr. Norbert W. Paul,
Institute for the History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine, University Medical Center, JGU Mainz

Since 2009 the project is complemented by a **PhD student group** financed by Mainz University (Program 'PRO Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften 2015') and dealing especially with topics owned to humanities and social sciences.

Further information on the research project can be found on www.ifzn.uni-mainz.de/eng/472.php.