Packing our bags for Washington!
By Martha Farah, INS Editor

It’s almost time for the next International Neuroethics Society meeting, on Thursday-Friday, November 10th and 11th, at the historic Carnegie Institution in Washington, DC.

The fun starts on Thursday afternoon with breakout groups on neuroethics careers, funding and teaching followed by an “updates and FYIs” session where you can make announcements and hear what’s happening in neuroethics at other institutions. We’ll then be treated to a fascinating symposium on the roots of morality as seen in the behavior of monkeys in the wild, featuring cognitive ethologists Dorothy Cheney and Robert Seyfarth and neurophilosopher Patricia Churchland. The evening will culminate with a poster session and reception.

Friday is a full day of neuroethics talks and panel discussions. Topics include neuroscience and national security, novel treatments in psychiatry (including brain stimulation) and a panel of practicing lawyers from recent cases involving neuroscience. There will also be a lecture on brain-machine interfaces by a speaker who has one, and a business meeting where you can learn more about the Society and make your voice heard.

To see the full schedule of events, check out our website.

We hope to see you there!

Sign up to Present Your Updates and FYIs at the Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 10 from 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. are Updates and FYIs – If you have a project, job vacancy, or funding opportunity that you would like to promote, then this is the place to do it. Do you want to attract new students, fill academic positions, or find collaborators? Are you interested in broadening your research collaborations or seeking international collaborators?

This Open Information Session is to help researchers connect with other scholars. Participants will have two minutes to present their projects and research opportunities to meeting attendees. It will be a fun and informal session and there will be time later for you to talk to other participants and get further information about the opportunities presented.

If you are interested in participating in this session, we ask you to please let us know in advance. Email Karen Graham to be put on the list kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org
Neurolaw: MacArthur project enters a new phase
by Martha J. Farah, INS Editor

The relationship between law and neuroscience highlights many of the most interesting and important issues of neuroethics, from the proper role in society of neurotechnologies such as brain-based lie detection to the neural systems enabling moral and legal responsibility. It’s therefore great news that the MacArthur Foundation has decided to continue its support of neurolaw by establishing a new collaborative research program.

The new Research Network on Law and Neuroscience will be directed by Owen D. Jones of Vanderbilt University and includes 12 other members including law professors, neuroscientists, a philosopher and a judge. Its main goals are to help the legal system avoid misuse of neuroscientific evidence in criminal law contexts, and to explore ways to deploy neuroscientific insights to improve the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

The Network builds on the broader exploration of neurolaw topics that was completed in an earlier MacArthur-supported project, and engages a smaller group of scientists and legal scholars to work together on the following research projects:

- Brain imaging studies that will help to improve the detection and classification of defendant mental states and will help to provide a richer understanding of how individuals process information on risk and reward when engaged in criminal acts.

- A neuroscience study to isolate self-regulation of legally relevant behavior conceptually and empirically and to gauge variation within the population in relative capacities to comply with the criminal laws.

- A study of normal adolescent brain development and cognition that will help to reveal the neural underpinnings of the maturating psychological capacities relevant to the criminal justice system.

- A study of the neural processes correlated with lying and with recognizing previously encountered information.

- A working group on evidentiary issues to help courts clarify and improve standards for evaluating the relevance and reliability of neuroscientific evidence.

- A working group to develop legally practical and scientifically valid guidelines for how to draw law-relevant inferences from group-averaged neuroscientific data.

The Network’s website includes many resources for learning more about neurolaw, including articles, textbook chapters, videos and links to other relevant websites. Surf on over and see what’s new in neurolaw: http://www.lawneuro.org/index.php

Like to Blog?

The International Neuroethics Society joined Neuroethics: Ethics and Neuroscience in the News, part of the Practical Ethics Blog with the Oxford Centre for Neuroethics.

Join in the conversation by following this link. Details and a link are available on our website. Be sure to follow the Practical Ethics blog on twitter @ethicsinthenews.
International News Updates

An Interview with Marco Pina
by Ania Mizgalewicz, INN Manager

Marco Pina graduated in medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon (1995), having acquired the degree of Specialist in General Practice / Family Medicine in 2002. Dedicated to the Philosophy of Science / Science Studies since 2005, Pina is currently preparing his PhD in History and Philosophy of Science. Here we excerpt a recent interview with Dr. Pina on the subject of neuroscience and art, in connection with a conference at which Judy Illes of the INS and INN spoke.

Could you describe your exhibit to us?

The exhibit was called “corpoIMAGEM”, or “bodyIMAGE” in English. The subheading was “Representations of the body in science and art”. As its name hints, it was an exhibit on the types of images of the body than on the body itself.

The exhibit spanned the history of art and science, Portuguese images of the human body from circa 1850 until today. It was organized in 3 parts, “body-landscape”, “body-fragment” and “body-algorithm”, each one in relation with the techniques used in the production of each period’s images: drawing (“body-landscape”), photography and X-rays (“body-fragment”) and the modern computerized-algorithmic imagery (“body-algorithm”).

What inspired this exhibit?

The exhibition was one part of a research project called “Image in Science and Art”, headed by the brilliant and energetic Olga Pombo. The project investigated the nature of the images produced by science and art (and its impact on how we perceive the world). It studied subjects ranging from the paradigmatic cases of Leonardo da Vinci, Vesalius, Goethe or Darwin to the most recent advances in Neuroaesthetics…

Could you tell us a bit about your interests in neuroscience, ethics, and imaging, and how these culminate in your exhibit?

When we thought of the present day images of the human body, it was immediately clear that we could end the exhibit with modern images of the brain. We thought it would be nice to show images of the human organ that ultimately sees, imagines, thinks, hypothesizes, theorizes, envisions not only the world around, but also itself.
Employment and Educational Opportunities

Do you have a neuroethics-related job opening for staff or faculty at your institution? Is there an educational program you’d like to publicize? Reach your fellow INS members by posting these opportunities here! Please email Chelsea Ott with the information you want posted at administrator@neuroethicssociety.org

Short-Term Neuroethics Fellowships for Graduate Students and Postdocs.

From May 29th—June 8th, 2012, the Penn Center for Neuroscience & Society will host 12 early-career neuroscientists for seminars, discussions and a short-term project in neuroethics.

Office space and accommodations will be provided along with a $1,000 stipend.

To apply, please send the following materials by February 10, 2012, to fellowship@neuroethics.upenn.edu:
- CV
- 150-word description of your current research
- 150-word statement of what interests you in neuroethics and why
- letter of recommendation from research mentor (sent by mentor directly)

Please entitle these emails YOURLAST-NAME Fellowship Application and YOUR-LASTNAME Fellowship letter.

“Like Us” on Facebook!

The International Neuroethics Society is now on Facebook! Be sure to “like” us today to get up to the minute updates, special sneak previews about our annual meeting, interesting articles, and to connect with fellow INS members.

Working Groups— in conjunction with the INS Annual Meeting

Working Groups are designed to bring members of our Society with shared interests together in an informal setting. Thursday night following the day’s events, working group dinners will be held at a restaurant near the Carnegie Institution. All attendees are responsible for the cost of their meals. If you are interested in joining a working group, please contact Karen Graham at kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org

The groups are:
- Addiction Neuroethics,
- Global Health and Neuroethics,
- Predictive Biomarkers for Alzheimer’s Disease,
- Deep Brain Stimulation,
- Cognitive Enhancement,
- Neuroscience and National Security,
- Neuroscience and Free Will,

Looking for a Good Read?

See our website to check out books by fellow INS members.

Have you written something recently? Submit it to Chelsea@neuroethicssociety.org with a brief description and link to have it included on our website.
Neuroethics Event Calendar
Share your event with us at administrator@neuroethicssociety.org

November 4-5 Making Sense of Mental Illness: Biology, Medicine, and Society, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany. This conference will discuss the extent and societal impact of mental illness. Experts from a wide range of disciplines will explore the ethical and social implications and explain the latest scientific knowledge on their causes and treatment. The conference will also debate a number of difficult topics including the definition of mental disorders, financial interests in their diagnosis and treatment and controversial therapies. Please see this link for more information.

November 10-11 International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., The International Neuroethics Society will be hosting its third meeting at the Carnegie Institution. Topics include National Security and Defense, Technology and Humanity, Novel Treatments in Neuropsychiatry, Law and Neuroscience. Speakers include Jonathan Moreno, Helen Mayberg, Michael Chorost, Huseini Manji, Alan Leshner, Pat Churchland, Steve Greenberg, Hank Greely, and more. There will also be a special session on Thursday: Interactive Break-out Groups on 1) Teaching Neuroethics, 2) Careers, and 3) Funding. See the full schedule here.

December 1-3 Neuro-Reality Check: Scrutinizing the ‘neuro-turn’ in the humanities and natural sciences, Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany. The workshop brings together scholars from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds with the aim of stepping back a little - and of probing deeper into the alleged effects and actual causes of the ongoing neurohype. Our aim, in other words, is to encourage a more de-centred kind of analysis than the one typically pursued: Why, for instance, is it that art historians or political theorists choose to eschew ‘theory’ in favour of neuroscientific wisdom? Which ideological sea-changes reside behind the frequently proclaimed ‘crisis’ in the humanities, and how do they resonate with the turn to the ‘neuro’? What are the interests and economic conditions driving the mushrooming of interdisciplinary neuro-X academic subfields in the contemporary academic landscape? Or again, is it really – empirically - the case that we are on the verge on of a ‘neuro-revolution’, our life-worlds, language and habits already being subtly transformed? The full program can be found here.

February 20—23 Current Methodological and Philosophical Issues in Neuroscience (Graduate Seminar), Free University Berlin, Germany. The seminar will focus on recent methodological and philosophical issues surrounding experimental designs, generation and statistical modeling of data, and the interpretation of experimental results in neuroscientific research. Beyond that, the cultural and social contexts of neuroscientific discourse and its effects on institutions and the media will be considered. The agenda of the research initiative Critical Neuroscience will be discussed by looking at particular examples. Advanced graduate and PhD students are requested to enroll via email as early as possible jan.slaby@fu-berlin.de. Teaching language is German, See this link for more information.

Review our event calendar online and submit your events to administrator@neuroethicssociety.org

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International Neuroethics Society

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. Questions and comments about the International Neuroethics Society should be directed to Karen Graham, Executive Director, kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org.