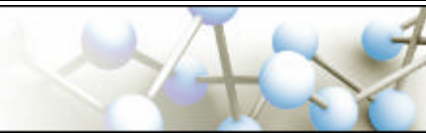


bioethics



## Call for Papers

### Neuroethics Special Issue

*Bioethics* announces a Special Issue to be published in July 2009.

**Guest Editors are Françoise Baylis and Jocelyn Downie**

**This special issue of *Bioethics* examines the following questions:**

1. Will contemporary cognitive and clinical neuroscience contribute to, oversimplify, or obfuscate our understanding of such fundamental concepts as personal identity and free will? How might this affect our understanding of moral and criminal responsibility?
2. Recently, much has been written about the ethics of human enhancement. What are the unique ethical challenges with novel neurotechnologies that promise to improve cognition?
3. How should we conceptualize harm and benefit in the context of neuroimaging, psychopharmacology, neurosurgery, and deep-brain stimulation?

**The aim of this special issue is to explore some of the more challenging conceptual and ethical questions having to do with the self, personal identity, free will, neuroenhancement, and conceptions of harm and benefit.**

**We call for papers on the following themes:**

- ?Relational theories of the self tend to emphasize the co-creation of the self through social interactions. These theories tend to complement views coming out of anthropology and sociology that see the individual as culturally and historically embedded. Though insightful, are these theories incompatible with the dominant view(s) of the self in the neurosciences? Must we choose between them?
- ?How is the popular notion that “we are our brains, our brains are us” the same as, or different from, earlier lore suggesting “we are our genes, our genes are us”?
- ?Is it reasonable to expect that the neurosciences will change our views of human agency, including moral or legal agency?
- ?We currently embrace all sorts of enhancements aimed at improving our cognitive abilities. Environmental enhancement (e.g., extra schooling) seems non-controversial, chemical enhancements appear to be somewhat controversial, and surgical or genetic enhancements more controversial still. Is there any reason to draw moral distinctions between different types of neuroenhancement?
- ?If an intervention in the brain fundamentally alters a patient’s personality is that a harm or a benefit? Is this something that only the patient can/should decide? Does it matter if the personality change was desired or an unanticipated side effect?
- ?Will neuroimaging become a form of mind reading? Will it threaten the privacy of our thoughts?
- ?Other related questions and debates

**Submission Deadline: 1st October 2008**

The editors welcome early discussion of brief proposals and/or abstracts by email to both:

[Jocelyn.Downie@dal.ca](mailto:Jocelyn.Downie@dal.ca) and [Francoise.Baylis@dal.ca](mailto:Francoise.Baylis@dal.ca)

Papers have a maximum word length of 6000 words. Please email: [Shawna.Gray@dal.ca](mailto:Shawna.Gray@dal.ca) indicating ‘BIOETHICS: Neuroethics’ in the subject line. All submitted papers will be subject to the *Bioethics* anonymous review process. For further submission requirements, including format, biographical and referencing style, please refer to the Author Guidelines on the *Bioethics* website: [www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=0269-9702&site=1](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=0269-9702&site=1).

You can now submit your manuscripts to *Bioethics* online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/biot>.