

2008 NEUROETHICS ACTIVITIES

January 2008

Publication: Equality and right to development as neuroethical concerns – *AJOB*, January, 8 (1), 2008

Open peer commentary discussing Meegan's article Neuroimaging Techniques for Memory Detection: Scientific, Ethical and Legal Issues. In my commentary, I argued that neuroevidences are very distant from Third World and developing countries, creating an environment where right to equality and due process of law clause varies according country's development status. Neuroevidences emerge as a neuroethical concern because their use in courts can provoke an offense to right to equality. A possible to solution to avoid such offense is implementing right to development, providing equal opportunities to any individual.

July/August 2008

Research Project: International Biolaw and Neuroethics

Research conducted at Hague Academy of International Law, during summer session, focusing on International Human Rights Instruments applicable to Neuroethics. Special attention was dedicated to the analysis of Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

November 2008

Neuroethics Society Meeting

Accepted Poster: International Biolaw Instruments and its application to Neuroethics

Recent discoveries and evolution in life sciences have produced a huge impact on civil society, with issues ranging from stem cells to human cloning to genetic modified organisms demanding regulation. Legal community has been trying to respond to that claim, addressing bioethical issues either in local terms or in an international setting. The elaboration of international law instruments to regulate bioethical questions has generated an entire new legal field: International Biolaw, whose purpose is to provide guidelines and principles for both Government and scientific community. Those instruments, generally adopting the form of a declaration, deal with bioethical major problems, without regarding to particular sub-fields. The main purpose of the present study is to analyze the impact of one of those instruments, Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, to Neuroethics. Three great questions are posed: a) What is the role exercised by the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights? b) Are the principles and guidelines established by Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights applicable to Neuroethics? c) How can domestic law benefit from

Universal Declaration's guidelines? In order to answer those questions, we examine Declaration's law-making process, scrutiny major principles established and launched by the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, relating them to Neuroethics concerns about privacy rights, human dignity, informed consent etc. and, finally, discuss how domestic law regulation could act as a tool to implementing Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

Work in Progress

- Neuroética e Direitos Humanos: uma introdução (Neuroethics and Human Rights: an introduction)

Book about the existing relation between Neuroethics and Human Rights, probably the first one to be published in Brazil.

- Neuroethics and Human Rights Law: Issues from theory to practice

Another discussion about the relation between Neuroethics and Human Rights, this time as an article being written in English.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Internet Tools:

- Direito e Cérebro (Law and Brain): Blog dedicated to the relations between Neuroscience, Law and Neuroethics, written in Portuguese.
<http://direitoecerebro.zip.net/>
- Neuroethics, Law and Behavioral Sciences: Facebook recent discussion group about Law and Neuroethics
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=88546635110>