

Tri-Lateral Progress Report

In 2007, a trilateral funding measure by three governmental funding bodies: the Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Academy of Finland and the Federal Ministry of Research and Education, Germany was announced. With an explicit aim to bring together research teams from Canada, Finland and Germany, the Tri-Lateral Neuroethics Initiative was designed to support organized research projects in the field of neuroethics. Funding began in 2008 with four consortia being supported.

On September 23, 2009, participants in the Tri-Lateral Neuroethics initiative met for an informal networking dinner in Halifax, as a satellite event of the Brain Matters Conference. Held at the University Club of Dalhousie University, fifteen participants from Canada, Germany, Finland and the United States (representing three funded consortia) exchanged experiences, discussed preliminary data, and laid the groundwork for future collaboration in an informal and convivial atmosphere.

On October 13-15, 2009, five scholars from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz met in Vancouver, BC with members of the National Core for Neuroethics at the University of British Columbia. The objective of the meeting was to both review preliminary data emerging from their Trilateral Neuroethics Initiative grant entitled, "Normality, Normalization and Enhancement in the Neurosciences: Ethical, Sociocultural and Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Cognitive Enhancement" as well as to begin to develop a framework for further collaboration between these two groups of investigators. Representing disciplines as diverse as philosophy, anthropology, history of science, psychiatry, neurology, and basic neuroscience, the team was able to make substantial advances in existing research programs and to develop concrete plans for future international collaboration in the field of neuroethics.