



NATIONAL CORE FOR NEUROETHICS
LA NEUROÉTHIQUE



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEUROETHICS SEMINAR SERIES 2009-2010

Interior Traces: Telling Stories about the Brain

Dr. Louise Whitely, University of British Columbia

**Thursday, July 8, 2010
12:15pm - 1:15pm**

Interior Traces is a multimedia radio drama - written by Dr. Louise Whitely and James Wilkes and funded by the Wellcome Trust - that asks how new ways of visualising the brain and gene might impact how we see ourselves and how institutions define responsibility, personality, and health. Reflecting on her numerous presentations of the drama with linked discussions throughout the UK and in Vancouver, Dr. Whitely will present data suggesting that the combination of fictional narratives with discussion is a powerful means of encouraging debate about the ethical, legal and social impacts of neuroscience, and discuss the theoretical ground for science communication like *Interior Traces*.

She will also discuss the drama's interrogation of the apparent immediacy and authority of brain scans and genetic tests through the video works that accompany the dramas, and consider how audience expectations affect the reception of this unusual format. Dr. Whitely will conclude by presenting some initial findings on the use of *Interior Traces* for medical ethics education.

The National Core for Neuroethics Conference Room
UBC Hospital Room S117
2211 Wesbrook Mall - Koerner Pavilion
Vancouver, British Columbia

About the speaker: Dr Louise Whiteley is a Visiting Research Fellow at the National Core for Neuroethics. She received a PhD in Neuroscience from UCL, and an MSc in Science Communication from Imperial College London. She is interested in investigating the ethical issues that surround neuroscience and its impact on our conceptions of human nature, health, and normality, through applied research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and work in public communication.

For more information please visit: <http://www.neuroethics.ubc.ca>