

What we do

SP12 is currently investigating questions arising from possible military interest in HBP research (also called dual use). One focus is the development of an Opinion on how to manage and regulate military uses of civilian research. The work includes the formulation of recommendations, guidelines, and training methods for the HBP and its researchers on how to act in cases where their research could have potential military applications. In addition, we are also putting into action recommendations previously developed on privacy and data protection. More broadly, HBP research and methodology, as well as the potential application of its findings, raise a number of questions and concerns. SP12 researches the possible implications of HBP research. Our methods include conceptual and philosophical analyses, the hosting of workshops and webinars, and performance of interviews with experts. Our goals are the development of better foresight analysis, ethical analysis, and engagement with broader audiences, as well as the raising of awareness among researchers on how to recognise ethical issues and the possibilities for action when they arise. The background to SP12 work is that the HBP aims to increase our understanding of the brain, its functions and malfunctions. To achieve its aims, the HBP is engineering an ICT platform, to provide virtual and real-life testing environments. Researchers hope the knowledge gained from using advanced computer science and engineering will result in better understanding as well as facilitating the development of better medications for the numerous brain disorders, mental illnesses, and age-related degeneration that affect a considerable percentage of the world's population.

How we are organised

WP12.1 FORESIGHT This Work Package (WP) identifies potential ethical and social concerns at an early stage by producing scenarios of potential developments and implications, produces reports and publications, and feeds these back to the HBP researchers to build

capacity to adapt to differing uncertain futures.

WP12.2 NEUROETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY. This WP performs philosophical, ethical and social analyses of HBP key activities and issues, thereby contributing to: the conceptual and epistemological development of neuro- and computational sciences; the reflective capacity of HBP researchers and others in addressing societal implications.

WP12.3 PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT. The goal of this WP is to assist the HBP in creating a constructive dialogue with not only public and private stakeholders, but also the general public. This WP maintains an intense engagement with points of view external to the HBP, thereby identifying emerging controversies, as well as formulating recommendations for HBP research organisation and research priorities.

WP12.4 ETHICS MANAGEMENT. This WP develops ethics governance measures to ensure compliance, reflection, and engagement with ethics among the entire HBP community. It works with all ethics stakeholders to ensure that ethics-related activities of the scientific and technical SPs are collected and communicated, and ensures open interaction between SP12's wider research and that of other SPs. These activities ensure that ethical issues are managed to the highest standards within the HBP and that international best practice is developed.

SP LEADER Kathinka EVERS

DEPUTY SP LEADER Jean Pierre CHANGEUX

WORK PACKAGE LEADERS

- WP12.1 Foresight: Nikolas ROSE
- WP12.2 Neuroethics and Philosophy: Kathinka EVERS
- WP12.3 Public Dialogue and Engagement: Lars KLÜVER
- WP12.4 Ethics Management: Bernd STAHL

SP MANAGER Lise BITSCH

Publication highlights

Klüver L, Bitsch L (editors). *Living up to privacy and informed consent in the Human Brain Project*. Danish Board of Technology Foundation 2014 [Online].

Dudai Y, Evers K. *To simulate or not to simulate: What are the questions?* Neuron 2014;84:254–61. DOI: 10.1016/j.neuron.2014.09.031.

Rose N. *The Human Brain Project: Social and ethical challenges*. Neuron 2014;82:1212–1215. DOI: 10.1016/j.neuron.2014.06.001.

Stahl BC, Rainey S, Shaw M. *Managing ethics in the HBP: A reflective and dialogical approach*. Am J Bioethics Neurosci. 2016;7:20–24. DOI: 10.1080/21507740.2016.1138155.

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<https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/project-structure/subprojects/>

Human Brain Project



Ethics & Society



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