

Year in Review 2021

Annual report and updates from the
International Neuroethics Society



*Encouraging and inspiring research and dialogue
on the responsible use of advances in brain science*

About the INS

The International Neuroethics Society (INS) is a professional association for students, scholars, scientists, clinicians, and other professionals and practitioners who share an interest in the social, legal, ethical and policy implications of advances in neuroscience.

In recent years we have seen unprecedented progress in the basic sciences of mind and brain, and in the treatment of psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Today, neuroscience is in classrooms, courtrooms, offices, and homes around the world providing powerful new tools for achieving our goals and prompting a new understanding of ourselves as social, moral, and spiritual beings.

Mission

The mission of the International Neuroethics Society is to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science.

To accomplish our mission we:

- Exchange knowledge among scientists, ethicists, medical professionals, lawyers, judges, educators, policy makers, and other stakeholders
- Forge connections and collaborations across scientific disciplines, business sectors, government agencies, and non-government institutions
- Enable education, training and mentoring opportunities to strengthen neuroethics
- Engage in public forums and discussions with citizens, journalists and experts



Membership

The number of members of the INS consistently hovers around 300 people. Of these, approximately one-third are students and postdocs. A majority of INS members are located in North America, but a significant and growing portion of the membership is based in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. As an international organization, we are keen to reach new people, networks, and institutions located around the world.

We communicate with our members regularly about neuroethics news, activities and events. Our website, social media channels, and our email newsletter play an important role in building connections among members of this community.

Members join the INS to interact, learn, and participate in critical neuroethics discussions that further this growing field. [Memberships](#) are available for students and professionals.

Benefits

Exclusive [member benefits](#) include:

- Reduced registration fees for the INS annual meeting
- Invitations to special workshops and networking opportunities
- Membership discounts for groups of people at the same institution
- Discounted subscriptions to *AJOB Neuroscience*, the official journal of the INS
- Discounts on select neuroethics titles from Springer and Elsevier
- Opportunity to be included in our [Neuroethics Experts](#) resource list
- Receive our email newsletter with the latest [neuroethics news](#)

Membership is a great way to support the efforts of the international neuroethics community and help us increase our overall impact.



Annual Meeting 2021

For the second year the INS meeting was held virtually, providing a greater reach for the event than in previous years. Students, early career researchers, and senior academics from a variety of disciplines and from 40 countries convened virtually to share their work and insights with colleagues located around the world. Offering the opportunity to participate virtually made this our most widely attended annual meeting to date.

The program—convened by the INS Program Committee and co-chairs—was themed ‘Social Justice at the Center: Shaping the Future of Neuroethics.’ Sessions engaged the different communities and disciplines that make up the field of neuroethics to learn from one another and to work together to foster justice and equity in the brain sciences.

Investigators from a wide range of disciplines and regions around the world submitted abstracts and shared their work by submitting a poster or recording an oral presentation. Top presentations were featured during live talks and awarded prizes.

Notably, Anita L. Allen, the Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, concluded the meeting with the Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture.

2021 Program Committee

Co-chairs

- Tim Brown, University of Washington (USA)
- Laura Cabrera, Pennsylvania State University (USA)
- Nicole Martinez-Martin, Stanford University (USA)

Members

- Katherine Bassil, Maastricht University (Netherlands)
- Ishan Dasgupta, University of Washington (USA)
- Jayashree Dasgupta, Samvedna Senior Care / Sangath (India)
- Juhi Farooqui, Carnegie Mellon University (USA)
- Karen Herrera Ferrá, Asociación Mexicana de Neuroética (Mexico)
- Emily Murphy, University of California, Hastings College of the Law (USA)
- Rosemary Musesengwa, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
- Ilima Singh, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
- Laura Specker Sullivan, Fordham University (USA)

Staff

- Karen Graham, INS Executive Director
- Robert Beets, INS Communications Director

Participants

Thank you to everyone who joined us for two days of online, interactive sessions. We had a great turnout with about 250 attendees from 40 countries. Notably, there were 63 recorded oral talks and [poster presentations](#) and the Program Committee awarded stipends to 33 investigators and prizes to 8 authors thanks to the generous support from our sponsors.

Visit the [meeting highlights](#) and [schedule](#) webpages for additional information about all speakers, the content of their lectures, and supporting resources and reading materials.

Featured Speaker

Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture

Anita L. Allen

Anita L. Allen is the Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania. She is internationally renowned as an expert on philosophical dimensions of privacy and data protection law, ethics, bioethics, legal philosophy, women's rights, and diversity in higher education.



With support from [The Kavli Foundation](#), the INS has annually hosted the [Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture](#) since 2017.

My Harvard Headache: Brain, Pain, and Black People

This talk used a harrowing personal experience with a 3-year headache to launch a discussion of opioid use and racial disparities in the context of the medical treatment of and social responses to adults experiencing headache pain, visual aura, photophobia, aphasia, and other symptoms of migraine.



Dr. Anita L. Allen (Image courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania)

Program Overview

Panels and Discussions

- Exploring Social Justice and Neuroethics
- Global Mental Health Care: Identifying Disparities and Setting Priorities
- Justice, Religion and Neuroscience: Promoting Socially Transformative Wellbeing
- Minding the Gap: Equity and Justice in AI and Neurotech
- Re-examining Values and Priorities in Global Neuroscience Research
- Environmental Neuroethics: Social Justice, and Steps Ahead
- Neurotechnology, Neurolaw, and Social Justice: Predicting and Preventing Criminality in Imprisoned People

Workshops

- Building Strong Mentor–Mentee Relationships
- Publishing and Writing
- Depictions of Disability and Neurotechnology
- Developing an Anti-Racist Neuroscience
- Assessing Rights-based and Legal Approaches to Protecting Mental Privacy
- Neurotechnology with Everyone: Engineering the Building Blocks of Global Participation
- Comics Workshop: Storytelling and Social Justice Concerns in Neuroethics

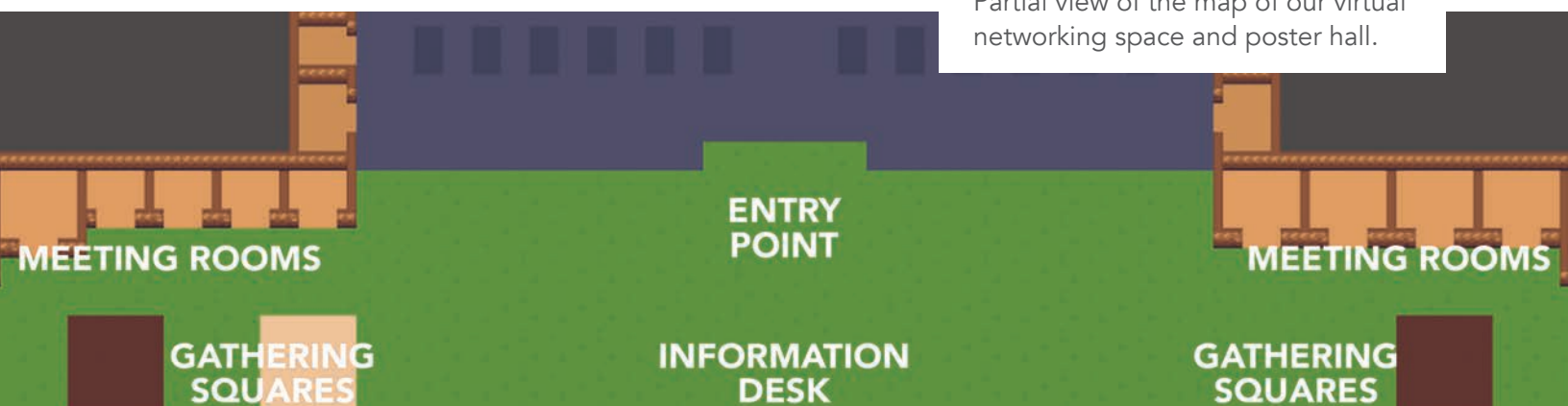
Scholarship

- Abstracts accepted for presentation
- Research posters and presentations
- Winning essays from the Neuroethics Essay Contest

Networking

- Virtual poster hall presentations and gatherings
- Regional showcases from institutes and networks
- Mentor matching and group discussions

Partial view of the map of our virtual networking space and poster hall.



Research Presentations

Oral Presenters

The INS Program Committee selected 6 investigators from accepted abstracts to record a 10-minute video presentation about their research. The featured presenters included:

Talks #1

- Quinn Boyle – Neuroethical challenges of screening for brain injury in women who have experienced intimate partner violence
- Ashley Feinsinger and Michelle Pham – Engagement, Exploitation, and Basic Human Neuroscience Research
- Margot Gunning and Judy Illes – Harm reduction as an ethics priority for authorizing medical cannabis in the care of youth with brain and non-brain cancers
- Ashwini Nagappan – Off-label promotion of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) by providers

Talks #2

- Andreas Schönau – Agency in Augmented Reality: Exploring the Ethics of Facebook’s AI-Powered Predictive Recommendation System
- Jayashree Dasgupta and Georgia Lockwood Estrin – “It’s better to stay away from tablets, even if they are vitamin tablets”: parental perceptions of nutritional supplements for cognitive enhancement in India.
- Karolina Wiśniowska – Too rational: How predictive coding’s success risks harming the mentally disordered and ill
- Paula Castelli and Nicolás Serrano – Electroconvulsive Therapy in Argentina: The Disagreement between the Public Policy and the Scientific Consensus

Top Contributions

Abstracts


- Ally Peabody Smith – Best Abstract
- Ashwini Nagappan – Best Abstract Honorable Mention

Oral Presentations

- Quinn Boyle – Best Oral Presentation: Talks #1
- Jayashree Dasgupta / Georgia Lockwood Estrin – Best Oral Presentation: Talks #2

Posters / Presentations

- Kate Webb – Best Overall Poster
- Ashley Walton – Best Contribution: Philosophical Neuroethics
- Jennifer Jin – Best Contribution: Clinical Neuroethics
- Roland Nadler – Best Contribution: Neurolaw

A video conference call with Patricia Churchland. She is an older woman with short, wavy white hair, wearing a dark patterned blazer over a yellow top. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background consists of white bookshelves filled with books. A small inset window in the bottom right corner shows a grid of other participants in the video call.

Patricia Churchland accepting the Hyman Award by video conference.

Awards and Contests

Steven E. Hyman Award

Patricia Churchland, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego and Adjunct Professor at the Salk Institute, was the 2021 winner of the Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics. The award presentation took place virtually on the second day of the 2021 INS Annual Meeting.

Neuroethics Essay Contest

With the **International Youth Neuroscience Association** and support provided by **Dr. Michael Patterson**, the INS organized the annual Neuroethics Essay Contest for students and early career trainees. We received over 100 submission. The 2021 winners in each submission category — Academic, General Audience, and High School — were:

- *Academic*: 'Continued access to invasive neural devices: lessons from the AIDS epidemic' by **Nathan Luke Higgins**, Monash University (Australia)
- *General Audience*: 'Beyond Disinformation: Deep Fakes and False Memory Implantation' by **Erin Morrow**, Emory University (United States)
- *High School*: 'Exploring the Ethical Implications of Neurotheological Studies' by **Rafael Hiu Nok Au** (Hong Kong)

Due to the volume of excellent scholarship submitted to the contest, several essays from each category were named as honorable mentions. Authors receiving this honor included:

- *Academic*: Noorina Noorfuad, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar); Naryeong Kim, Stanford University (South Korea);
- *General Audience*: Sanjana P. Padala, Vanderbilt University (United States); Cody Slater, Columbia University (United States);
- *High School*: Pragma Kumar (United States); Akshara Sankar (United States); Arush Adabala (United States);

Partnerships

Activities in partnership with other like-minded organizations help to spread the word about neuroethics and increase our impact. Below is a summary of several current partnerships.

American Brain Coalition

INS is a member of the American Brain Coalition to advance public advocacy. ABC hosts webinars on neuroethics topics featuring INS members.

AJOB Neuroscience

The *American Journal of Bioethics – Neuroscience* is the official journal of the INS. Members are eligible for a discounted subscription rate.

Asociación Mexicana de Neuroética

The INS and AMNE collaborate on neuroethics events and projects based in Latin America and South America. Karen Herrera Ferrá — founder and ex-president of the AMNE — is a member of the INS Board of Directors.

Brain Awareness Week

INS is a partner of the annual campaign organized by the Dana Foundation. INS members host local and virtual events on neuroethics during the campaign.

The Dana Foundation

The Dana Foundation provides funding to the INS. Winning essays of the Neuroethics Essay Contest are often published on the foundation's website.

IBRO

INS is a member of the International Brain Research Organization. Neuroethics has been included in IBRO training programs and IBRO provides funds to help researchers participate in INS meetings.

IEEE Brain

Representatives of the INS and IEEE Brain collaborate on areas of mutual interest, including hosting virtual film screenings and panel discussions. INS members also contribute to the development of IEEE standards, guidelines and frameworks.

International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility

The INS has contributed webinars and other education resources to the INCF Training Space for the neuroscience community.

International Youth Neuroscience Association

INS and INYA collaborate on activities of interest to students and young scholars interested in the brain. Together we run the annual Neuroethics Essay Contest.

Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal

IRCM will host in-person sessions of the 2022 INS Annual Meeting. Eric Racine — research professor and director of the Pragmatic Health Ethics Research Unit at IRCM — is a member of the INS Board of Directors and a co-chair of the INS Program Committee.

Società Italiana di Neuroetica

The INS and SINE collaborate on neuroethics events and projects based in Italy and Europe.

Society for Neuroscience

The INS Annual Meeting has regularly been a satellite event of the Society for Neuroscience annual conference.

Financial Support

The International Neuroethics Society was designated a nonprofit organization under the provisions of 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code in December 2008. Funding for the INS comes from members, grants and donations.

We thank the following sponsors and donors for their support in 2021. Without their assistance, we could not fulfill our mission to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science.

Sponsors

- Dana Foundation for continued support of operating expenses
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute for support of the annual meeting
- Kavli Foundation for sponsorship of the Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture at the annual meeting featuring Anita L. Allen, University of Pennsylvania
- IBRO (International Brain Research Org.) for support covering investigators' registrations
- Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities for support covering investigators' registrations
- Duke Initiative for Science & Society for general support of the annual meeting
- Penn Center for Neuroscience & Society for general support of the annual meeting
- Dr. Michael Patterson for continued support of the Neuroethics Essay Contest
- Springer for donating journal and book prizes to research presenters
- Elsevier for donating book prizes to research presenters

Donors

- Turhan Canli
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Dr. Michael Patterson

We thank Dr. Michael Patterson for many years of dedication to the field of neuroethics and generous support for the Neuroethics Essay Contest. Dr. Patterson passed away in 2022.



Sponsorship Opportunities

The International Neuroethics Society is a professional association of scientists, scholars, students, and practicing legal and health professionals who share an interest in the ethical, legal, and societal impacts of advances in brain science. Members come from many disciplines and are uniquely equipped to communicate the value and implications that new neuroscience knowledge, technologies, and potential applications bring to human health and well-being.

A task of this magnitude and importance requires the help and support of partners and sponsors. We can only carry out our programs with the help of others who share our vision and commitment to excellence in research and innovation, informed decision-making for health and quality of life, and justice in society for people of all ages and cultures.

Opportunities are available to support the mission of the INS at individual and institutional levels. Your involvement will make a difference. Individuals and organizations can support the INS annual meeting, our flagship event, and other outreach activities. Visit our website for additional details about [partnership and sponsorship opportunities](#).

Contact Us

Contact INS staff or INS Board members listed on the next page to discuss programming, outreach, and financial support for our mission. Thank you for your interest.

Karen Graham

Executive Director

kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org

+1 301-229-1660

Acknowledgement

The INS publicly acknowledges all support on our website and in publications or programs, whenever appropriate. Receipt of support does not imply INS's endorsement of the donor or its products, services or policies. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services are received in return for donations. The International Neuroethics Society confirms its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status under FEIN number 20-5230980.

Website: neuroethicssociety.org

Twitter: [@neuroethicsinfo](https://twitter.com/neuroethicsinfo)

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Staff

Executive Director

Karen Graham

kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org

+1 301-229-1660

Communications Director

Robert Beets

rbeets@neuroethicssociety.org