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### Inside this issue:

Profile **1**  
Profil

Announcements **2**  
Annonces

Neuroethics **5**  
literature  
Littérature en  
neuroéthique

Resources **7**  
Ressources

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# BRAINSTORM

A newsletter about ethics, neuroscience, and society  
Un bulletin sur l'éthique, les neurosciences et la société

Vol. 11 No. 04  
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Brainstorm

## Profile | Profil



**Fernando Vidal, PhD**, is a Research Professor of ICREA (Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies) and Professor at the Center for the History of Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona. He has a B.A. in psychology from Harvard University, graduate degrees in psychology and in the history and philosophy of science from the universities of Geneva and Paris, and a *habilitation* from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a member of the Ethics and Society Pillar of the European flagship Human Brain Project. After maintaining a close connection to psychology, Dr. Vidal's work expanded to the history of the relationships of science and values and how they have shaped views about the human since the early modern period. Examining the

history of the "cerebral subject," his research overlaps with biomedical ethics, medical anthropology, and phenomenology. One of his main current projects concerns the locked-in syndrome. The LIS offers a unique opportunity to examine central questions about notions and practices of personhood in the realm of values, beliefs and experiences. These questions – on the relationships between mind and body, self and other, autonomy and dependency, the value of life in health and illness – are at the heart of contemporary debates in philosophy, morals, biomedical ethics, and the practice of medicine. They will be explored by analyzing the autobiographical narratives written and published by locked-in persons, as well as by means of questionnaires and interviews with patients, caregivers and family members.

**Statement on Neuroethics:** In spite of a considerable increase in reflexivity, some neuroethics research still seems to align itself excessively with neuroscience, to draw too much on expectational discourses, and not to fulfill its role as a critical voice in the biopolitical universe. In spite of exceptions, the field sticks too closely to agendas and topics (simplifying: those of the Global North) that it should examine "from the outside" instead of helping legitimize "from the inside." In response, neuroethics would benefit from paying systematic attention to work by anthropologists, historians and sociologists of science and medicine, as well as to alternative discourses about global modernity.

### Selected Publications:

**F. Vidal & F. Ortega**, *Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject*. (New York, Fordham University Press, 2017).

**F. Vidal**, "Historical and Ethical Perspectives of Modern Neuroimaging." In Jens Clausen and Neil Levy, eds., *Handbook of Neuroethics* (Dordrecht, Springer, 2015), 535-550.

**F. Vidal**, "Brainhood, Anthropological Figure of Modernity," *History of the Human Sciences*, 22 (1), 2009, 5-36.

Website: [icrea.academia.edu/FVidal](http://icrea.academia.edu/FVidal) Email: fernando.vidal@icrea.cat

If you would like to post any events, announcements, or news of interest please contact us at [neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca](mailto:neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca) (subject line: **Brainstorm Events and Announcements**)



## Announcements | Annonces

### Call for Proposals: The Future is Now: - Bioethics and Humanities Re-Imagine an Uncertain World , October 18-21, Anaheim CA, ASBH

*Please join us at the 20th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities, to help us imagine, reflect on stretch the limits of and expand the boundaries of healthcare, the arts, education, policy, law, and other domains of being human in an uncertain world. We invite you to consider: How do shifting population dynamics, cultural and social norms, and emerging technologies and cutting-edge science shape our understandings of health and illness? Giving and receiving care? Living and dying? Teaching and learning? Creating and connecting with others? How do political and economic shifts create or limit opportunities in healthcare settings, or in legal, educational, environmental, and social contexts?*

**Submission deadline:** March 5

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Call for Abstracts: Science and Democracy Network 17th Annual Meeting, June 27-30, Munich Center for Technology in Society, Technical University Munich

*The Conference Planning Committee invites abstracts (up to 300 words) on a theme appropriate for discussion at the workshop. The closing date for abstract submissions is March 15, 2018. We will make decisions on which abstracts to accept by about a month from that date. You should submit your abstracts via the online form. Please direct any questions to Shana Ashar at [shana\\_ashar@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:shana_ashar@hks.harvard.edu).*

*The conference will be organized around the following major themes:*

- *Institutions:*
- *Citizenship and Participation*
- *Communication and Representation*

**Application Deadline:** March 15

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Announcement: An International Research Consortium to Examine Individual Autonomy in Neuroethics

*An international research consortium, coordinated by Professor Juha Räikkä (Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History, and Political Science, University of Turku, Finland) has been launched to study the role of individual autonomy in neuroethics. Räikkä's research group works together with the groups of Professor Jennifer Chandler (Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, Canada) and Professor Kai Vogeley (Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital Cologne, Germany).*

*The main aim of the research consortium is to assess how individual autonomy is to be understood in light of the latest pertinent research and to determine whether enhancement uses of neuroscientific knowledge are less compatible with autonomy than therapeutic uses. The relationship between individual autonomy and other central neuroethical values – such as wellbeing, dignity, and justice – will also be examined.*

*The research consortium is part of the European ERA-NET Neuron program (<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu>). The work of the consortium will continue until February 2021. For further information about the consortium please contact Professor Juha Räikkä.*

**Contact:** Professor Juha Räikkä (Tel: +358 50 466 2305, E-mail: [jraikka@utu.fi](mailto:jraikka@utu.fi))

## Announcements | Annonces

### Call for Papers: Philosophy of Medicine Meets Social Epistemology, June 7-8, Leibniz Universität, Hannover, Germany

*The two-day workshop aims at building bridges between philosophy of medicine and social epistemology. There is a significant overlap in the questions discussed in these fields, especially the interest in medical research in its wider social and cultural context. The workshop aims to provide an opportunity to explore such issues, which are not only of interest to academic philosophy, but have wide-ranging implications for society. How does the institutional context of medical research influence its trustworthiness? Which research areas and questions are under-funded or even completely ignored? How do issues of testimonial justice affect therapeutic relationships? What is the role of patient and other interest groups in producing medical knowledge?*

*Possible topics include, but are by no means limited to: the formation and usage of certain concepts and classifications of race or gender in medical research as well as their societal impacts; the conceptualization of health, illness, and disability; possibilities to deal with the commercialization of research and resulting bias; the nature of objectivity in medicine and psychiatry; issues of trust in medical practice, potential epistemic injustices in patient-doctor relations, and their role in diagnostic and therapeutic processes.*

**Application deadline:** March 12

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Call for Applications: MindCORE Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Fellows, University of Pennsylvania

*MindCORE (Mind Center for Outreach, Research, and Education) seeks to recruit outstanding postdoctoral researchers for our Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Scholars. Housed within the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania, MindCORE is an interdisciplinary effort to understand human intelligence and behavior. Designed for individuals who have recently obtained a PhD degree in psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy or other cognitive science discipline, the MindCORE Fellowship is intended as a springboard for young researchers to help them build and establish their own research. Fellows will pursue collaborative research with faculty working across disciplines at Penn.*

*Fellows receive a competitive salary and health insurance plus a modest research budget. Fellows also benefit from access to the greater community of academics including visiting scholars plus leading research facilities equipped with cutting-edge instrumentation all on an urban campus in a vibrant city. Fellows are invited to join regular working group meetings within their field plus career development workshops aimed at young researchers. Fellows will be provided with a mentoring committee. Funding is provided in one year terms renewable for up to three years.*

**Application deadline:** March 1

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Announcements | Annonces

### Call for Applications: Two Postdoctoral Fellowships in Global Health, Yale University

The multidisciplinary academic program in Global Health at Yale seeks two Postdoctoral Fellows for the 2018-2019 Academic Year, with an option of renewal for the following academic year. Each Fellow will teach two undergraduate courses (one per semester) drawing on their respective areas of expertise in Global Health. They will also pursue research with a mentor of their choosing and participate in the interdisciplinary community provided by the Global Health Justice Partnership, directed by Professors Amy Kapczynski, Alice M. Miller, and Gregg Gonsalves. Participating Yale faculty in the program include members of Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies, Biomedical Engineering, Medicine, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Public Health, History of Science and Medicine, Ethnicity Race & Migration. Successful candidates will also be granted a budget to host events that contribute to interdisciplinary conversations about Global Health.

**Application deadline:** March 16

[Click here for more information.](#)

### Call for Applications: Limited Term Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Waterloo

The Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo invites applications for a two-year fixed-term contract at the rank of Assistant Professor, with a preferred start date of July 1, 2018. The Area of Specialization is open, though a specialization in Philosophy of Mind or a related area of Philosophy is preferred. The teaching load is five one-term courses per year, plus some graduate supervision, and the job involves the usual expectations for research activity and administrative service for Assistant Professors. The successful candidate will be able to teach interdisciplinary courses in Cognitive Science and courses in Philosophy of Mind, as well as having a broader teaching competence in Philosophy.

Teaching in both years will include courses in Waterloo's Arts First program (<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts-first/>), and in the first year will include design and preparation of an online Introduction to Cognitive Science course.

**Application deadline:** March 29

[Click here for more information.](#)

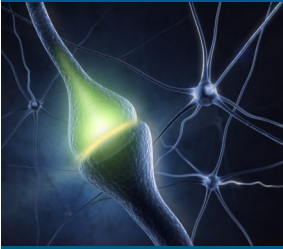
### Call for Applications: Postdoc, Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Vienna

The University of Vienna (15 faculties, 4 centres, about 174 fields of study, approx. 9.500 members of staff, more than 94.000 students) seeks to fill the position from 01.06.2018 of a University Assistant (post doc) at the Department of Science and Technology Studies

The Department of Science and Technology Studies is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Science and Technology Studies is a social science field with a strong interdisciplinary orientation. It analyzes the interactions of science, technology and society and is highly research oriented. Department research focuses on knowledge and technology cultures, the relations of techno-sciences and publics and the governance of techno-sciences and society. In teaching, the department offers the English language master program 'Science-Technology-Society', as well as a number of course formats for other programs.

**Application deadline:** April 3

[Click here for more information.](#)



# Literature | Littérature

## ARTICLES

[Psychiatry and Deliberative Democracy: The Goldwater Rule, Presidential Fitness, and Neuroethics](#)

Fins JJ. Harvard Medical School Bioethics Journal

[Person-Oriented Research Ethics: Integrating Relational and Everyday Ethics in Research.](#)

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[Decreasing Smoking but Increasing Stigma? Anti-tobacco Campaigns, Public Health, and Cancer Care.](#)

Riley KE, Ulrich MR, Hamann HA, Ostroff JS. AMA J Ethics. 2017 May 1; 19(5): 475-85.

[Should Dementia Be Accepted as a Disability to Help Restore Hope during Cognitive Decline?](#)

Robbins NM, Bernat JL. AMA J Ethics. 2017 Jul 1; 19(7): 649-55.

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Steiger H, Sansfaçon J, Thaler L, Leonard N, Cottier D, Kahan E, Fletcher E, Rossi E, Israel M, Gauvin L. Int J Eat Disord. 2017 Sep; 50(9): 1058-66. Epub 2017 Jun 14.

[Can Artificial Intelligences Suffer from Mental Illness? A Philosophical Matter to Consider.](#)

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[The ethical relevance of the unconscious.](#)

Farisco M, Evers K. Philos Ethics Humanit Med. 2017 Dec 29; 12(1): 11.

[The Intrinsic Activity of the Brain and Its Relation to Levels and Disorders of Consciousness.](#)

Farisco M, Laureys S, Evers K. 2017. Mind and Matter. 15(2): 197-219

## NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[Social Science vs. Neuroscience? Epistemologies and Stereotypes](#)

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[Brain "Pacemaker" Could Help You Remember Only What You Might Forget](#)

Smith DG. Scientific American. February 06, 2018.

[Diplomats in Cuba Suffered Brain Injuries. Experts Still Don't Know Why.](#)

Kolata G. The New York Times: Americas. February 15, 2018.

['I felt bullied and harassed': A Montrealer's fight to get insurer to recognize his depression](#)

Pinders L & Monpetit J. CBC News. February 15, 2018.

[#SupportTheReport features Neuroethics Canada's Dr. Judy Illes!](#)

Bacani MC. Neuroethics at the Core. February 16, 2018.

[Neuroblame?](#)

Rainey S. Practical Ethics. February 16, 2018.

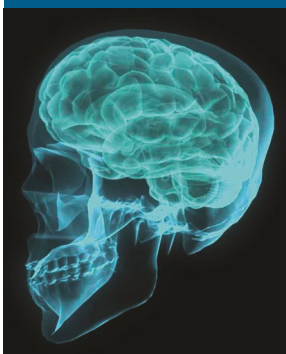
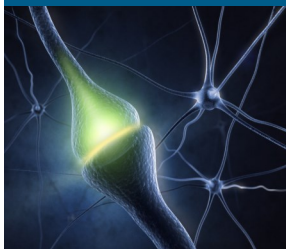
[Checking Facts and Falsehoods About Gun Violence and Mental Illness After Parkland Shooting](#)

Qiu L & Bank J. The New York Times: Politics. February 16, 2018.

[Researchers Say They've Created a 90% Accurate Blood Test for Autism](#)

Cara E. Gizmodo. February 18, 2018.





## Literature | Littérature

### [Neuroscience funding to provide common platform for Canadian researchers](#)

CTV Montreal. February 19, 2018.

### [What was the beguiling spell of Jung's 'collective unconscious'?](#)

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### [AI Declaration: Responsible AI requires stronger privacy protections and inclusive democratic governance](#)

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### [Parents need to start talking to their tweens about the risks of porn](#)

Dines G. The Conversation. February 20, 2018.

### [One Track Moral Enhancement](#)

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### [Bioethics has a Silencer on Gun Violence](#)

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### [Human Chains: "Prayer Camp" Psychiatry Study Raises Ethical Questions](#)

Neuroskeptic. Discover Magazine. February 21, 2018.

### [International Day Of Women And Girls In Science Highlights That Neuroscience Is Our Future](#)

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### [The Frustrating Inadequacy of Antidepressants](#)

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### [A stroke nearly killed me. Now I'm clinging to life against the odds](#)

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### [The Lancet derides Canada for contrast between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health outcomes](#)

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### [For Executives, Addiction Recovery in the Lap of Luxury](#)

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### [Trump's Call for Mental Institutions Could Be Good](#)

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### [About that New Antidepressant Study](#)

Neuroskeptic. Discover Magazine. February 24, 2018.

### [Discredited hair-testing program harmed vulnerable families across Ontario, report says](#)

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### [Mental illness and gun laws: What you may not know about the complexities](#)

Javanbakht A. The Conversation. February 26, 2018.

### [This Neuroscientist Uses Art to Fight Hate](#)

Mercer A. Vice. February 26, 2018.

### [How brain science found its way into business school](#)

Murray S. Financial Times. February 27, 2018.



## Resources | Ressources

[University of British Columbia, Neuroethics Canada](#)

[Neuroethics at the University of Pennsylvania](#)

[International Neuroethics Society](#)

[Neuroethics Research Unit / L'Unité de recherche en neuroéthique](#)

[Journal of Ethics in Mental Health](#)

[Novel Tech Ethics](#)

[Neuroethics at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics](#)

[Berman Institute of Bioethics' Program in Ethics and Brain Sciences](#)

[Centre interfacultaire en bioéthique et sciences humaines en médecine](#)

[The Neuroethics Blog](#)

[Emory Program in Neuroethics](#)

[American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience](#)

[Neuroethics Women \(NEW\) Leaders](#)



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