

NeuroDialogues:

Reconstructing Identity – Navigating Neurological Changes

Date:

Time:

Location:

Registration:

Tuesday December 5th

19.00-21.00

Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities,
Seminar room (ground floor), Parkveien 9, 5007 Bergen

<https://skjemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=15489181>

5th of December we invite Neuro-SysMed staff and collaborators to join us for a conversation about identity in the context of neurological conditions and challenges. The workshop will be organized as chaired discussions and will not require any formal preparation. We do however invite you to bring a curious and critical mind, kindness, and a story or two from your own clinical and/or scientific practices which foreground experiences related to identity in some way or another. These stories will serve as a foundation for the kinds of questions that will inform the discussions, for instance:



Illustration: Caroline Engen/DALL-E 2

- How do severe neurological diseases and the medical interventions designed to treat them challenge and alter an individual's sense of identity?
- What are the profound questions that arise when considering the intricate interplay between neurological conditions, interventions, and the very essence of personal identity?
- In what ways can shifts in personality and self-perception due to changes in brain function prompt us to reevaluate the boundaries of an individual's core identity?
- What ethical considerations emerge when contemplating the potential harm, both physical and psychological, that can result from interventions affecting brain function and subsequently challenging an individual's self-perception?
- To what extent does the essence of one's sense of self become a subject of exploration when navigating the effects of neurological decline and interventions, and how might this understanding influence medical practice and research?

NeuroDialogues is an initiative anchored in the RRI/PPI node within Neuro-SysMed that aims to foster discussions and debates on a wide spectrum of topics at the intersection of severe neurological conditions, technology, and the human mind. It serves as a space for exploring the profound questions raised by the integration of cutting-edge technologies and medical practices in the field of neurology. For questions or suggested topics for future events contact:



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Neuro-SysMed

NeuroDialogues: General information

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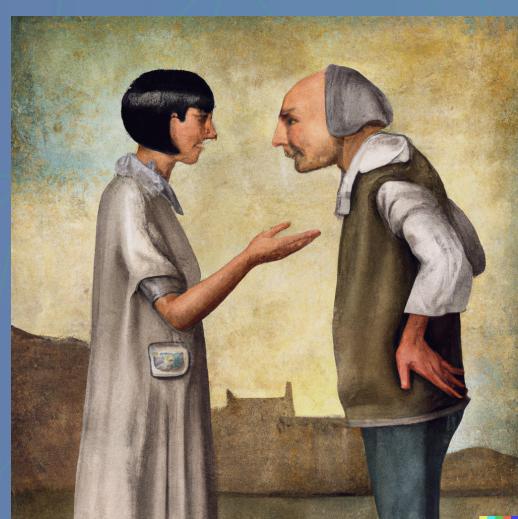
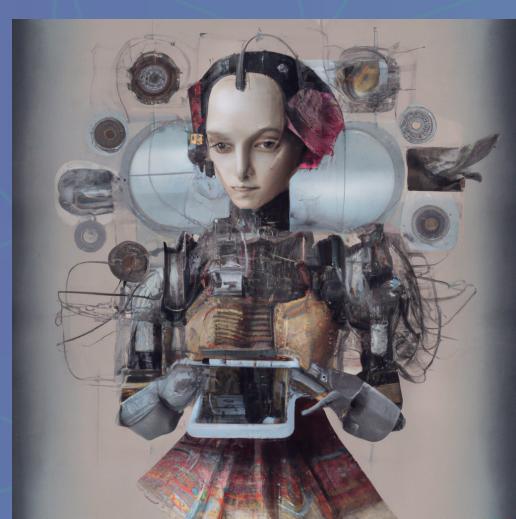
Neuro-SysMed is about improving the lives of people living with and dying from severe neurological conditions. Utilizing a systems medicine approach, the overall objective is to leverage data from clinical trials for 1. identification of precise markers aiding early disease detection, 2. delineation of more accurate disease categories, 3. enhanced predictive abilities, and 4. refined interventions. As such, Neuro-SysMed is about advancing neurological practices in specific ways and through specific approaches, characterized by integrating cutting-edge technologies and medical practice. In this context, technologies that generate representations of the brain and mental states, alongside drugs and technologies operating within the brain, hold central roles. Importantly such neurological tools, like neuromodulating and psychotropic drugs, Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs), digital phenotyping, and neurofeedback, are all examples of practices and technologies that are also interwoven with contemporary debates and controversies about the future, morality, and evolution of personhood and the humane.

This illustrates how the work at Neuro-SysMed, embedded in and emergent from broader landscapes of neuroscientific and medical discourses, foreground a

spectrum of inquiries encompassing not only questions of clinical and scientific relevance but also fundamental philosophical matters and ethical concerns of societal relevance. Will the use of neuro-technologies prompt us to reevaluate fundamental concepts of ethics and morality in the context of neurological challenges, if so how? What ethical considerations arise when interventions are made to enhance decision-making capacities in individuals with impaired neurological function? What conversations need to occur to address potential cultural biases and ethical implications embedded in neurotechnological interventions?

While some of these questions may initially appear distant from the daily research activities and pursuits at Neuro-SysMed, the associated researchers and clinicians collectively encompass a diverse range of privileged disciplinary perspectives relevant to these topics. As central stake-holders in these developments there is arguable also a responsibility to explore and engage in these debates.

NeuroDialogues is an arena for such conversations and debates. Join us for collective exploration of the mind, technology, and their intersection thinking through the lens of severe neurological conditions!



Illustrations: Caroline Engen/DALL·E 2



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