

NeuroLaw Network News

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New Publications

- The Presidential Bioethics Commission in the USA whose job is to look at the implications of new neuroscience published [a report](#) in March on its findings. This is its second report (the first looked at ethics and neuroscience) and it looks at three issues: cognitive enhancement, consent capacity, and neuroscience and the legal system.
 - In regards to enhancement the commission were concerned about unknown risks and fairness of access to potentially beneficial technologies. They urged that experts develop guidelines for use by individuals and recommendations by doctors.
 - The commission felt that those with limited consent capacity should be included in research if it could help to alleviate their conditions whilst encouraging research into consent capacity and addressing stigma.
 - As regards the legal system, they recommended increased use of educational tools developed by government bodies and professional organisations so that neuroscience is more accessible, particularly by jurors and members of the public. They discouraged the use of “hype” and exaggeration, and recommended more interdisciplinary work between lawyers and neuroscientists.
- M. S. Pardo and D. Patterson’s, [Minds, Brains, and Law](#) is a jurisprudential analysis of neuroscience and the issues it raises for concepts like free will and determinism, as well as implications for the legal system. They recently held a symposium on the book and have published their replies to criticisms raised, which covered many of the key issues in relation to the topic, mainly potential over-optimism in relation to the use of neuroscience.
- Salmanowitz argues in a new paper that pain neuroimaging has great promise in tort cases dealing with chronic pain and discusses the problem of deception using this technology.

NeuroLaw News Items

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[Stanford have an opening](#) for a one year fellowship in Neuroscience and Society, looking at legal, ethical, and social issues arising from advances in neuroscience.

The Neuro Humanities Research Group of the Department of Human Sciences at the University of Catania is calling for abstracts on the topic of “Metaphors as source of creative thought” for a conference on the 4-6 June in Catania, Italy. 250-word abstracts should be sent to neuhums@gmail.com by the 15th of April. More information is available [here](#).