

## Mid-Term Program “Brain Sciences and Ethics”

### Synopsis

The development of science and technology has a great influence on society and poses many problems that are related to values and ethics. In this program we shall examine philosophical and ethical problems of brain sciences and society from three perspectives.

First, the advancement of the brain sciences might produce such technology as mind-reading and medical enhancement of intelligence. This could present serious ethical problems. We shall study these problems.

Second, the advancement of the brain sciences might drastically change current views of human beings, for instance, the denial of free-will, the brain’s control over actions, etc. Comparing the brain sciences with evolutionary biology, we shall investigate whether the former can change views of human beings, as did the latter. Furthermore, we shall scrutinize the philosophical and ethical implications of such a change.

Third, by revealing how brain mechanisms produce ethical actions, the brain sciences might uncover the realities of our ethical actions, undermine existing ethics, and promote the naturalization of ethics. We shall consider what such naturalization of ethics is like and what it brings to us.

### Schedule (to be determined)

Winter-term, AY 2007

October 2007-March 2008

Lecture: “Brain Sciences and Ethics” (Prof. Yukihiro Nobuhara, at the University of Tokyo)

December 2007 (one week intensive)

Graduate Conference at Peking University (presentations by post-docs and RAs)

February 2008

Seminar and Presentations: "Neuroethics" (Prof. Thomas Metzinger, at the University of Tokyo; presentations by post-docs and RAs)

Summer-term, AY 2008

April-September 2008

Graduate Conference, "Problems in neurophilosophy" (Profs. Alva Noë and Yukihiro Nobuhara, at the University of Tokyo)

June (July) 2008

Seminar and Presentations: "What of mind do the brain sciences reveal?" (at the University of Tokyo; presentations by post-docs and RAs)

Winter-term, AY 2008

October 2008-March 2009

Graduate Conference: “Problems in the ethics of technology” (Profs. Zhou Cheng, Takehiko Hashimoto, and Junichi Murata, at Peking University)

March 2009 (one week intensive)

Seminar and Presentations: “The possibility of citizens’ participation in the development of technology” (at Peking University; presentations by post-docs and RAs)

Summer-term, AY 2009

April-September 2009 (one week intensive)

Graduate Conference: “Problems in neuroethics” (Profs. Thomas Metzinger and Saku Hara, at the University of Mainz)

June (July) 2009 (one week intensive)

Seminar and Presentations: “Do the brain sciences undermine our ethics?” (at the University of Mainz, presentations by post-docs and RAs)