



Neuroenhancement at the MACRO in Rome



The NERRI consortium invites the public to a round table with major experts

**22 June 2015, 4.30-7.00 pm
MACRO Museum
Via Nizza, 138, Rome**

Thanks to scientific research, now and increasingly in the future, human beings can use smart drugs and technological devices to enhance their cognitive abilities. These high expectations are offset by equally high concerns about health and ethics. In the framework of the European Commission NERRI project, the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste and the Fondazione Toscana Life Sciences (TLS) in Siena are organizing, at the MACRO Museum in Rome, a round table to discuss and inform the public about the present and future of neuroenhancement. The conference, held by leading international experts on the subject, is free, open to all, and will be held in English.



The American Psychological Association has called it “a billion dollar industry”. Although the use of drugs to “stimulate” creativity is nothing new in the history of humankind, the great strides forward of modern science have made available drugs and technological devices capable of enhancing human cognitive skills in a more specific and selective manner than in the past, thereby creating a completely new “market”.

As is obvious, neuroenhancement raises not only enormous expectations but also many safety and ethical concerns. NERRI (Neuro-Enhancement: Responsible Research and Innovation) is a major European project which aims at promoting societal dialogue about neuroenhancement and devising guidelines for national and European policy makers.

On June 22nd, the MACRO (Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Roma) will host a round table open to the public to talk about neuroscience and methods for neuroenhancement. The event is organized by the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste and the Fondazione Toscana Life Sciences (TLS) in Siena, in collaboration with the European Brain Council (EBC). The meeting will address the scientific, social and ethical aspects of neuroenhancement, and stimulate interaction with the public. It will also discuss responsible research and novel techniques as well as the results achieved so far by the NERRI project, comparing the opinions of several experts in the field.

Many are the questions the participants will attempt to answer, also drawing from the results of research carried out within the NERRI project: is enhancing one’s cognitive skills legitimate? What kind of people can use neuroenhancers? Is it ethically correct for a healthy person to use them? How do new technologies enhance our capabilities? How can we address these issues from the perspective of responsible research? How can we engage the public in discussions about these issues?

The public is invited to attend the event, which will be held in English. For information contact: Rosalba Cilione (rcilione@sissa.it) or Simona Pandolfi (spandolf@sissa.it). You can also follow the NERRI project on Twitter (@nerri_eu) or Facebook (NERRI Project).

More in detail...

The round table, coordinated by **Agnes Allansdottir** (TLS) will see the participation of the NERRI project partners, all scientists and experts involved in neuroenhancement: **George Gaskell** (London School of Economics), **Helge Torgersen** (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna), **Alexandre Quintanilha** (Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular, Porto), **Vincent Torre** (SISSA), together with **Elisabeth Hildt** (Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago), **Gian Maria Galeazzi** (Università degli Studi di Modena e



Reggio Emilia), **Stefano Vicari** (Neurologist and Neuropsychologist, Head of the Child Neuropsychiatry Unit of IRCCS "Bambin Gesù" Children's Hospital, Rome) and **Giuseppe Ducci** (Psychiatrist, Psychotherapist, Director of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Psychiatric Services of the DSM and the ASL).

USEFUL LINKS:

- Website of the NERRI project: www.nerri.eu

IMAGES:

- Credits: Evan (Flickr: <https://goo.gl/OF4US8>)

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