



Exploring the Future Society with Neurotech from Humanities and Social Sciences “Internet of Brains”–Society

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Overview

The “Internet of Brains”–Society is a team composed primarily of legal scholars, ethicists, philosophers, and lawyers. We are examining what kind of relationship between the Internet of Brains (IoB) and individuals would be desirable when the society realized by IoB arrives.

Specifically, we are examining how to safeguard the values, rights, and freedoms we hold dear while ensuring the welfare brought by technology. Working backward from the vision of an ideal society, we are exploring what legal and ethical responses, policies, and systems will be necessary.

To this end, we are conducting research primarily within the new legal field of “neurolaw,” expanding our activities both domestically and internationally. We have also engaged in discussions informed by science fiction-inspired imagination and held repeated dialogues with the young people who will lead the next generation.

Law of the Internet of Brains: Basics and case studies in Neurolaw

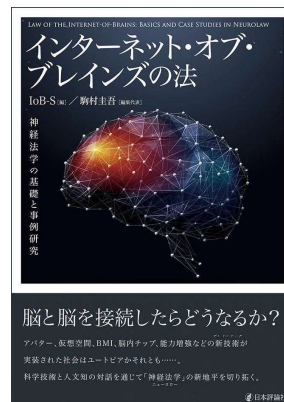
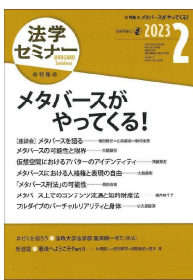
At IoB-S, we have conducted research primarily with natural scientists and engineers participating in the Kanai Project, engaging in ongoing dialogue with natural scientists and physicians in the fields of neuroscience, cognitive science, and psychiatry. Specifically, by sharing the current state and future prospects of advancing neuroscience and technology research and development, we have examined the potential risks and benefits from a legal and ethical perspective, sometimes including bold predictions about the future, and also what systems and mechanisms are necessary to accelerate the research and development of new technologies while safeguarding the values, freedoms, and rights cherished in our society, thereby maximizing the welfare they bring, as we strive to achieve and realize the vision of the IoB-S.

The outcomes of this work were serialized over two years(2022-2023), in the renowned legal journal 『Law Seminar』. Subsequently, after multiple content updates, it was published as a single volume titled 『Law of the Internet of Brains: Basics and case studies in Neurolaw』 in 2025.

Additionally, Keigo Komamura organized roundtables titled “The Future of Multi-disciplinary Knowledge: Pioneering Human Potential,” and “How to Approach Future Challenges Beyond the Divide Between Humanities and Sciences”. These were published in the 『Mita-Hyouron』 a journal with a large readership in the business community. We also published the book 『Liberty 2.0』, which explores the relationship between cutting-edge technologies, including neurotechnology, and “freedom.”

Through these initiatives, we communicated the importance and significance of engaging with the emerging field of “neurolaw”—still unfamiliar in Japan—to the research community while simultaneously producing numerous pioneering achievements in this area.

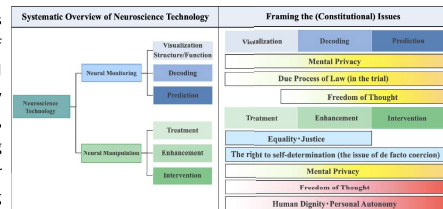
Furthermore, IoB-S members have disseminated information to diverse stakeholders beyond the research community by participating in newspaper interviews and writing web articles.



Research and opinion dissemination on the international stage

The International Neuroethics Society (INES) and the International Society for Public Law (ICON·S), as well as conferences, events, and joint research meetings held in various countries, have enabled us to actively disseminate research findings and opinions on the international stage. We have also established a significant presence within the global discourse.

Additionally, our members participate in the development of recommendation documents and guidelines being advanced by UNESCO, WHO, UNHRC, OECD, and IEEE, actively contributing opinions. We plan to further strengthen these activities going forward.



A Systematic Overview of Neuroscience Technologies and a List of Constitutional Issues (Excerpted and partially modified from Kokubo, “The System of Neurolaw,” 2024)

Engagement with society

IoB-S has pursued effective ELSI discussions while valuing engagement with society alongside academic activities. Members have authored essays serialized on the official Ghost in the Shell global website and participated in events at the Setagaya Literature Museum, engaging with both the expectations and anxieties of the general public interested in SF- imagination and the world of SF. They have also spoken at events held at CIC Tokyo, fostering exchange and dialogue with companies and practitioners.



Furthermore, we organized events at the Keio University Doctoral Leading Program Summer Camp and held lectures at Keio High School for the next generation of young leaders. Through dialogue with those who will navigate a world where neurotechnology is widespread, we strive to provide information, foster shared awareness of issues, and cultivate talent capable of addressing ELSI and advancing scientific research.

Moving forward, we will continue to pursue ELSI research that transcends the confines of academic books, aiming instead for ELSI research that can play a role within society.

Future Prospects

In response to the rapid advancement of neuroscience technology implementation in society, various international organizations are accelerating efforts to establish rules specifically targeting the implementation of neuroscience technologies. Japan will actively participate in these efforts, aiming to reflect the perspectives and opinions of IoB-S in rule-making through proactive international engagement. Furthermore, to ensure society appropriately embraces neuroscience technologies with their significant potential and achieves a balance between risks and benefits, we will continue to actively pursue research, engage in dialogue with diverse stakeholders, and provide information.



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Keigo Komamura: Born in Tokyo in 1960. Graduated from the Department of Law, Faculty of Law, Keio University. Served as Professor at Hakuoh University and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Graduate School of Law, Keio University, and is currently Professor at the Faculty of Law, Keio University. Doctor of Juridical Science. Specializes in constitutional law. Member of the Advisory Committee for the Constitutional Amendment Research Project at Harvard University's Reischauer Institute. Author of works including The Modern Transformation of Constitutional Litigation (Nippon Hyoronsha), The Legal Theory of Journalism (Sagano Shoin), and Aspects of the Separation of Powers (Nanso-sha).

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