

Comparing Apples with Oranges: A Differential View on Neuroenhancement

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As its starting point, the project takes the observation that interventions in the mind are, in a wide sense, an everyday and commonplace phenomenon: "Every conversation changes the brain" (Eric Kandel). But the range of possible techniques to change and enhance the mind is wide and cognitive neurotechnology will pervade our society more and more, presumably in an irreversible way. Thus, the project seeks to prepare appropriate, empirically informed and theoretically fine-grained guidelines for cognitive enhancement and modulation of the brain. If some interventions in the mind are considered ethically dubious or even legally impermissible whereas others are deemed beneficial for the individual and society, distinctions among them seem to be drawn. Taken together, the project wants to present a differential view on neuroenhancement from an interdisciplinary perspective.

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