

2025 Neuroethics Conference
Neuroethics at the Intersection of the Brain and Artificial Intelligence

Opening Remarks

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Chairpersons of the Organizing Committee.

President of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences.

President of the International Neuroethics Society.

Esteemed Colleagues.

It is both an honor and a privilege to extend a warm welcome to all attendees of this Munich 2025 Neuroethics Conference, on behalf of the Italian Society of Neuroethics and Philosophy of Neurosciences (SINE).

This Conference serves as a significant milestone for our Society, as it marks the first meeting organized in partnership with the International Neuroethics Society (INS), the leading organization for the advancement of neuroethics.

SINE is truly grateful to the INS, and in particular to her President, Debra J.H. Mattews, for having proposed and cultivated this relevant opportunity of cooperation.

It was back in 2009 that the first Meeting on Neurosciences and Society was organized in Italy, and it has been in 2013 that the SINE was officially incorporated.

Since 2014, SINE launched its annual International Conference on Neuroethics, one of the important Italian dialogues in this field.

Throughout the years, SINE has garnered recognition as a distinguished scientific association, committed to the advancement of neuroethics in Italy.

SINe has actively promoted academic research, encouraged public awareness, and fostered international collaborations, uniting neuroscientists, cognitive psychologists, moral philosophers, and legal experts from Italy, Europe, and beyond.

During our annual International Conferences, esteemed professors share their extensive studies in an engaging environment, while many young scholars introduce fresh perspectives that enrich the fields of neuroscience and neuroethics.

SINe Awards Roll lists many of the masters in neuroscience and moral philosophy.

SINe cultivated relationships with policymakers and legislators, advocating for the translation of ethical and social studies into laws and regulations concerning neuro-technologies.

Our Neuroethics Weeks and Festivals have successfully engaged numerous citizens in public discussions regarding the implications of neuroscientific advancements and their ethical dimensions in everyday life.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the founders of our Society and to all individuals, who have dedicated their time and efforts in various roles over the years.

Their unwavering commitment, vision, and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge in matters of neuroethics are commendable.

I would also like to acknowledge the current members of the Steering Committee, the Vice President Sarah Songhorian, the Treasurer — and real “*deus ex machina*” — Andrea Lavazza, and the Secretary Federico Zilio.

Their contributions are essential to the continued success of our Society.

I extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Organizing Committee of this now-starting 2025 Munich Conference, starting from the two co-chairs Phillip Kellmeyer and Marcello Lenca, and to the INS Executive Director, Robert Beets, for their tremendous efforts in bringing this event to fruition.

The Conference program promises to be both intellectually stimulating and relevant to contemporary discussions.

The relationship between the human brain and digital technologies, including A.I., offers opportunities to amplify our scientific and technological capabilities across diverse sectors, while also presenting both considerable benefits and inherent risks.

Open and constructive dialogue among scholars from a variety of backgrounds and Countries is, therefore, essential for addressing and regulating the ethical, social and legal challenges that arise at the intersection of neuroscience and A.I. technology.

While technology may eventually be defined as “artificially intelligent,” it must always remain guided by “human intelligent oversight”.

Both INS and SINE are committed to this vision.

As we all know, the European Union has recently taken a pioneering step, as the first Western legislative body to enact a comprehensive regulation governing A.I., while various initiatives have emerged, at the European level, as well as in some American states, and internationally, aimed at enforcing “neuro-rights.”

It is crucial to recognize that the power of technology brings, with it, moral and legal duties and responsibilities, including a commitment to safeguarding the universal values of human civilization for both current and future generations.

Consequently, even this “neuro-digital transitional scenario”, should be inspired by principles of human dignity, freedom, equality, and solidarity.

In this context, neuroethics has never been more pertinent, and this Conference holds the promise of being a significant event in the continuing international dialogue surrounding neuro-ethical considerations.

Moreover, SINE regards this three-days event as an important step to strengthen transatlantic collaboration with the INS.

SINE is deeply committed to fostering a long-term partnership with INS, that supports meaningful and innovative research on the ethical, social, and legal

implications of neuroscience and related emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

SINe stands eager to engage in further joint initiatives — academic and civil — with INS, confident that shared efforts will bring significant benefits to both American and European societies.

Thank you.