

Neurolaw Workshop Jun 6th

Nottingham Trent University will be hosting a workshop on issues relating to neuroscientific evidence and the law on Jun 6th. This event is aimed at lawyers, both practitioners and academics, interested in the area of law and neuroscience. A neurologist and expert witness and legal academic specialising in law and neuroscience will be presenting on how the courts handle neuroscientific evidence from both empirical and theoretical perspectives. These presentations will be followed by a session to raise the important questions and discuss how to drive the research agenda forward in the UK context.

Agenda

1000-1030 Registration, coffee and tea

1030-1040 Introduction

1040-1140 Medical expert evidence (Dr Ian Morrison, University of Dundee)

1140-1240 Legal issues (Dr Lisa Claydon, Open University)

1240-1315 Lunch

1315-1415 Important questions in neurolaw (Dr John Rumbold, NTU)

1415-1500 Breakout sessions for generating ideas

1515-1530 Tea and coffee

1530-1600 Panel discussion

1600-1615 Wrapping up

This event is designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding neuroscientific evidence in the British courts. The focus of this event is on the assessment of criminal responsibility. The advance of technology has enabled more and more sophisticated techniques for looking at brain structure and function. The interpretation and application of such neuroscientific evidence is crucial to ensure that the criminal justice system is helped, rather than hindered, by this new technology. Fallacies arise with new types of evidence, such as Morse's psycho-legal error, which is where the person believes that "causation, especially abnormal causation, is per se an excusing condition". Yet it may also be right to reconsider the tests for capacity in light of new ways of assessing the brain and new understandings.

This event aims to generate insights into the application of neuroscience in British courts and advance the research agenda to address the questions posed by legal practitioners. We look forward to welcoming interested practitioner and academics with interests in expert evidence, the assessment of criminal responsibility, and/or philosophical and policy issues related to the application of neuroscience in the courts.

Please register your interest via this email address if you would like to attend:
NTUNeurolawWorks@ntu.ac.uk

There is no charge for this event, and lunch and refreshments will be provided. This should be a fascinating day of discussion of the problems thrown up by the application of advancing technologies which provide more and more information about brain states to issues of criminal responsibility. The aim is to inform the debate and learn from practitioners what questions are important to them.