

The concept of autonomy is also of crucial importance for understanding human agency and ethics. Often, the idea that human agency is a conscious, rational and individual autonomous process is taken as a largely uncontroversial starting point; yet recent work in biology and the cognitive sciences raises important conceptual, empirical and methodological challenges for standard philosophical assumptions concerning human agency and autonomy. For instance, some research threatens to undermine the idea that rational reflection plays a central role in human agency. More positively, biological and cognitive research may contribute new ideas for understanding agent individuation, personal identity, and self-directedness, offering the potential for a more firmly grounded naturalistic account of human agency. Philosophers are responding to these challenges, with the new field of neuroethics being one of the more prominent examples of a deepening engagement between philosophy and science.

Among others, in this session we shall tackle questions such as: To what extent is human agency dependent on infra-rational factors? To what extent is human agency non-individually generated? To what extent is moral agency a non-rational process?

For Christensen's lecture:

- What role does reflection play in personal autonomy?
- Do you agree with Haidt that most moral reasoning is really post hoc rationalization of emotional attitudes?
- Is moral reasoning a skill? If so, can we train ourselves to be more morally skilful? How?

For Casado's lecture:

- What a naturalist account of ethics could be like?
- What are the challenges posed by neurosciences to moral theory?
- What role do emotions play in ethics, particularly in generating intuitions about moral responsibility?
- How the concept of autonomy is being applied in bioethics?

For De Jaegher's lecture:

- How do the autonomies of interacting individuals and the autonomy of the interaction itself relate and interplay?
- What is the impact of this interplay for ethical behaviour and responsibility?
- What is interactional ethical responsibility?