Measuring Borderline States of Consciousness

Friday, October 24-Saturday, October 25, 2014
NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center
53 Washington Square South
1st Floor Auditorium

Sponsored by the NYU Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness and the NYU Center for Bioethics.

There are famous difficulties in measuring subjective states of consciousness. Nevertheless, a number of techniques have recently been developed for measuring states of consciousness in clinical settings. These techniques have been applied to borderlines states of consciousness: in particular, those found in brain-damaged patients diagnosed with vegetative state, and those found in patients under anesthesia. Measures using fMRI imaging, electroencephelography, and various other technologies have been developed.

These measures pose any number of scientific and philosophical questions.

- What is the best measure of consciousness in these cases?
- How can we justify these measures, given the private and subjective nature of consciousness?
- What is the best way to use these measures clinically?
- What ethical issues do they raise?
- What might these measures tell us about the nature of consciousness?

All of these questions and more will be discussed at the workshop. Speakers will include:

Tim Bayne (The University of Manchester), Heather Berlin (Mount Sinai Hospital), Melanie Boly (University of Wisconsin), Joseph Fins (Weill Cornell Medical College), L. Syd Johnson (Michigan Technological University), Steven Laureys (Belgian National Fund of Scientific Research), Marcello Massimini (University of Milan), Lionel Naccache (Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière), Adrian Owen (Western University), Alexander Proekt (Weill Cornell Medical College), Harry Scheinin, (University of Turku), Nicholas Schiff (Weill Cornell Medical College).

Organizing Committee: Ned Block, David Chalmers, S. Matthew Liao & Nicholas Schiff.

Registration is free but required.
For complete information, visit http://tinyurl.com/qyb7hok
Have questions? Contact us at consciousness@nyu.edu
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<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Conference registration and check-in.  
*Location: NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, 53 Washington Square South 1st Floor Lobby, New York, NY 10012* |
| 10:00 AM       | CONFERENCE OPENING                                                   |
| 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM | OVERVIEW:  
*Nicholas Schiff*, Weill Cornell Medical College—Reframing the Discourse: Measurements of Consciousness in the Severely-Injured Brain. |
| 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | LUNCH BREAK                                                         |
| 1:30 PM - 3:45 PM | APPROACHES TO MEASUREMENT:  
*Melanie Boly*, University of Wisconsin-Madison—Consciousness: From Practice to Theory-and Back.  
*Marcello Massimini*, University of Milan—Assessing Consciousness Independent of Sensory Processing and Motor Behavior.  
*Lionel Naccache*, Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière—Exploring Consciousness in Non-Communicating Patients. |
| 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM | COFFEE BREAK —  
*Location: NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, 53 Washington Square South 1st Floor Lobby, New York, NY 10012* |
| 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM | ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS:  
*Joseph Fins*, Weill Cornell Medical College—Rights Come to Mind: Disorders of Consciousness and a New Civil Right Agenda.  
| 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | RECEPTION—  
*Location: NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, 53 Washington Square South 1st Floor Lobby, New York, NY 10012* |
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| 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM | **ANESTHESIA:**  
Harry Scheinin, University of Turku—Anesthesia and Brain Imaging in the Study of Human Consciousness. |
| 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | LUNCH BREAK                                                                |
| 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM | **DETECTING CONSCIOUSNESS:**  
Adrian Owen, Western University, Canada—Consciousness, Executive Function and the Master of Suspense.  
Tim Bayne, The University of Manchester—Detecting Consciousness: The Natural Kind Method. |
| 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM | **COFFEE BREAK**  
Location: NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, 53 Washington Square South 1st Floor Lobby, New York, NY 10012 |
| 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM | **PANEL DISCUSSION:**  
Heather Berlin, Mount Sinai Hospital  
Ned Block, New York University  
David Chalmers, New York University  
S. Matthew Liao, New York University |