

NEURAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR SERIES

Automated Neuroprosthetics: Selfhood, Trust, and Partnership

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ABSTRACT: Neuroprosthetics are set to play a vital role in therapeutic and restorative practice, likely for both better and worse. Neuroethics often characterizes neuroprostheses as an external influence, an aid or threat to self-hood. I have argued, recently, the issues users face are better characterized in terms of the user's relationship to their stimulator, that is, in terms of 'relational agency.' My assertion, I will argue, is both supported and complicated by the existence of neural devices that rely on (machine-learning) algorithms to make decisions on the user's behalf or in the user's best interest. In this presentation, I'll try to adjust my previous views to accommodate the state-of-the art in neuroprosthetics.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Tim Brown is an Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He is also a founding member of and long-term contributor to the Neuroethics Thrust within the Center for Neurotechnology at UW. Dr. Brown's research explores the potential impact of neurotechnologies on end users' sense of agency and embodiment—as well as their potential to harm marginalized groups.