

Emerging Issues and Future Prospects in Japanese Neuroethics

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Abstract:

Neuroethics is a field that explores the implications of neuroscience on individuals and society. In Japan, approximately 15 years have passed since neuroethics was introduced, yet the field still requires the development of robust methodologies and a clearer academic identity. As neuroscience and neurotechnology continue to advance, the challenges facing Japanese neuroethics in the 2020s can be categorized into five key areas: (1) the need for in-depth research on the significance of informed consent in psychiatric research and the promotion of active engagement between the public and patients; (2) the establishment of a global framework to support neuroscience research that relies on reliable samples and data; (3) the development of ethical guidelines tailored to Japan concerning the construction and use of brain banks, with a focus on reassessing the moral value of the human neural system in comparison with non-human primates; (4) an urgent need to examine the ethical implications of neuromodulation technologies that affect emotional states; and (5) a reconsideration of neurotechnology from social perspectives, specifically in terms of establishing guidelines for neuroenhancements and DIY neurotechnologies, and investigating the intersections between neuroscience and public health.

Biographical information:

Eisuke Nakazawa, PhD, is a professor of Biomedical Ethics at School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, and the vice director of Bioethics Collaborative Research Organization, the University of Tokyo, Japan. He is also an affiliate instructor at School of Medicine, Department of Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington. He received his doctorate in Philosophy of Science from the University of Tokyo. He has published more than 100 academic articles relating to biomedical ethics. His current research area is Biomedical Ethics, Public Health Ethics, Neuroethics and Philosophy of Science. His recent publications include Sadato N, Morita K, Kasai K, Fukushi T, Nakamura K, Nakazawa E, Okano H, Okabe S. 2019. Neuroethical issues of the Brain/MINDS project of Japan. *Neuron* 101:385–

389; and Nakazawa E, Yamamoto K, Tachibana K, Toda S, Takimoto Y, Akabayashi A. 2016. Ethics of Decoded Neurofeedback in Clinical Research, Treatment, and Moral Enhancement. *AJOB Neuroscience* 7(2): 110–117.