Technomoral Revolutions and the Possibilities of Neuroscience

Yu Nishitsutsumi
Center for Information and Neural Networks (CiNet),
National Institute of Information and Communications
Technology (NICT)

URL: https://cinet.jp/english/people/20220609/
E-mail: nishitsutsumiyu@nict.go.jp

Abstract:

Various innovative technologies have led to the affluent state of our daily lives. For example, the Industrial Revolution, which was brought about by the invention of the steam engine, dramatically increased productivity, but it also brought problems such as the deterioration of working conditions and environmental destruction. But new technologies have not only brought changes to physical and social conditions. They have also led to disruptions in existing conceptual structures, and have led to revolutions in social institutions and values. The term 'technomoral revolutions' refers to the process of large-scale, radical change to existing values and moral norms brought about by new technologies. In this presentation, I will consider what technomoral revolutions might be brought about by neuroscience. To do this, I will first introduce historical and contemporary examples of technomoral revolutions, and then consider the mechanisms of change from a philosophical conceptual perspective.

Biographical information:

Yu Nishitsustumi is a researcher at the Advanced ICT Research Institute at the Center for Information and Neural Networks (CiNet). She has a PhD from the University of Tokyo, where she wrote a dissertation on the relation between emotions and rationality. Her current research is on the philosophical and ethical dimensions of new technologies that are based on recent advances in neuroscience, in particular ethical, legal, and social issues (ELSI). More broadly, her area of specialty is philosophy of mind. She works on issues such as self-control, rationality, and moral responsibility, focusing on the role of emotions, using methods based in analytic philosophy. Her approach incorporates the results of cognitive sciences such as psychology and neuroscience in addition to traditional philosophical perspectives when examining various philosophical topics.