

Humboldt Kolleg

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Global Challenges of the 21st Century

- 1) Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

Neurotechnologies and the Boundaries of the Person

Whereas there is a bioethical debate about who constitutes a person, the boundaries of entities that qualify as persons are usually taken for granted – with boundaries, I mean the extension, the parts that belong to a person, and therefore enjoy a special legal protection. Protheses may already pose some challenges in this regard, and neurotechnologies blending minds and machines do so all the more. Some activists call for new cyborg rights that recognize the peculiar situation of technology augmented persons. This talk shall take a critical look at several of such recent political demands and highlight the issues legal theorists and philosophers should (and should not) study more closely.

Jan Christoph Bublitz is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Hamburg and a fellow of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) in Bielefeld. His research is situated at the intersection of criminal and human rights law, philosophy and cognitive sciences, with a special view on the legal conceptualization of the human mind as well as the psychological grounding of legal reasoning. Currently, he is a Principal Investigator of a multidisciplinary research project on memory, trauma and the law, as well as another one on the legal and ethical implications of interfacing the human mind with computers. He has published extensively on matters of bioethics and the law and co-edits the book series *Neuroscience, Law & Human Behavior* at Palgrave. His research has won several prizes, among them the Young Scholar Award of the International Association of Legal and Social Philosophy.