



EVENS FOUNDATION SCIENCE PRIZE 2016

The Evens Foundation has long focused on advancing the sciences in order to enlighten the mind and lead to a better society. The Evens Science Prize 2016 will therefore be awarded for research in the field of cognitive neuroscience that furthers understanding of individual or collective behaviour, including its ethical aspects. The research must be completed or ongoing, and thus excludes any future research projects.

Cognitive neuroscience has become an interdisciplinary study, involving many types of expertise and scientific specialisations. However, for the purposes of the Evens Foundation Science Prize, the research must relate to the better understanding of human intelligence and emotions, and to the neural bases of cooperation and altruism, either on a theoretical and formal model, or on an experimental basis.

The insights of neuroscience

Neuroscience encompasses the various scientific disciplines dealing with the structure, development and function of the nervous system, as well as the study of its chemistry and its impact on human behaviour (in its normal functioning but also in its pathology). Unravelling the mind-body question, it provides insight into solving problems related to the definition of consciousness, subjective experience, human interaction and behaviour.

To engage in such comprehensive study, neuroscience extends far beyond the domain of neurobiology, and is nowadays defined as an interdisciplinary science that liaises closely with fields such as mathematics, linguistics, computer science, psychology and philosophy of mind. The use of techniques drawn from mathematical physics and other computational fields has strongly benefited the capacities for modelling and simulation, illustrated by the theory of complex systems.

New understanding of individuals and society

Nowadays neuroscience is also focused on an extended study of higher cognitive functions in humans and their underlying neural bases, from memory to language acquisition and emotions, drawing both from mathematical models and experimental psychology.

Furthermore, the recent development of cultural neurosciences (which look at how beliefs, practices and cultural values are shaped by the neural bases of the brain over different periods), and social neurosciences (how biological systems implement social processes and behaviour) have inspired new hypotheses for the understanding of society.

As a pioneering field, neuroethics studies the ethical, legal and sociological implications of neuroscience, and also applies neuroscientific methods to approach individual and social questions.

Ethical, cooperative and altruistic behaviour

Given its aims, the Evens Foundation is particularly interested in such developments and discoveries. **For that reason, the Evens Science Prize 2016 is focused on research that furthers understanding of our behaviour, whether individual or collective, with special emphasis on ethical, cooperative and altruistic aspects.** Only completed or ongoing research, to the exclusion of future research projects, will be considered.

Procedure

Candidates should be tenured academic staff members of a university or a research center linked to a university located in a European Union member state.

The laureate will be selected by an international expert jury and will be awarded the €30.000 prize by the Evens Foundation.

Candidacies should be provided in English, in electronic form or by post, along with the application form, which is available at www.evensfoundation.be, before 30 April 2016, and sent to Ms. Marjolein Delvou.

Marjolein.Delvou@evensfoundation.be
Program Manager, Peace Education
Evens Foundation
Stoopstraat 1
2000 Antwerp
Belgium
32-3-231.39.70

The jury meeting will take place in late spring 2016.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marjolein Delvou who will forward your questions to the chair of the jury.