

## Summary

### *„Brain Reading Technologies for Communication and Human Dignity”*

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This contribution analyses human dignity protection issues arising in connection with medical applications of Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) and related brain imaging technologies. Fundamental human rights and the concept of human agent provide major ethical motivations for restoring communication and action capabilities of people affected by the locked-in syndrome. Recent clinical experiments suggests that ethical motivations grounded in human dignity extend to the use of brain imaging techniques (fMRI) for communicating with people in vegetative state. However, genuine communication presupposes the possession of a wide variety of mental capabilities that one cannot take for granted in people affected by those disorders of consciousness. These mental preconditions are analysed here on the basis of philosophical distinctions between phenomenal, introspective, reflective, and narrative consciousness.

