



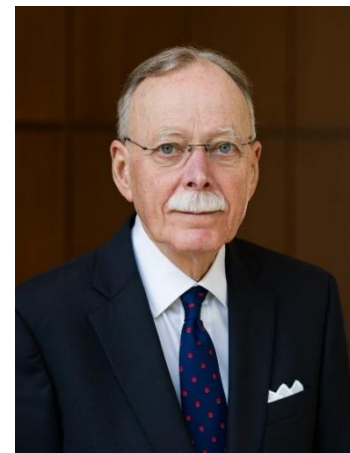
Guest lecture: Neurolaw: Perils and Promises

“Neurolaw: Perils and Promises”

*Guest lecture by Professor Stephen J. Morse,
J.D., Ph.D University of Pennsylvania Law
School and Department of Psychiatry*

Time: Monday 16th of May, 13.00-14.30

Place: Auditorium 3, Faculty of Law,
University of Bergen, Norway



The lecture addresses the current relevance of behavioral neuroscience to the law, especially to issues of criminal responsibility and competence. The essential thesis is that, despite the exaggerated claims of some “neuroexuberants,” at present neuroscience offers extremely limited contributions to criminal justice and it will not justify radical reforms. Topics to be addressed include an explanation of the legal doctrines at stake, the sources of the often inflated claims for the legal relevance of neuroscience, the scientific status of behavioral neuroscience, and the two radical challenges to current conceptions of criminal responsibility that neuroscience allegedly poses: determinism and the death of agency. The question of the specific relevance of neuroscience to criminal law doctrine, practice and institutions is considered, followed by a discussion of how neuroscience evidence is being used in criminal cases in five different countries. Brief mention is made of some areas warranting modest optimism.

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The lecture is arranged by the DIMENSIONS project and the Research group for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.