



Hey, there!

We want to invite you to join the **fourth series** of **Corpus Curiosum** taking place this **June**. It is an online **lecture series** aimed at young researchers. We are a group of three young researchers with a clear goal: **Stimulate critical thinking in Neuroscience** and build a network of early-career neuroscientists engaged in the topic 💡 .

Our previous series were a huge success, with hundreds of participants joining from over **50 countries**. We scheduled **four weekly Zoom** events of about 60min with an interactive Q&A with the audience, the first of which will be a **networking event and discussion**. **For the fifth session**, there will be **mental health workshop** with additional opportunities for attendees to exchange ideas in an informal manner.

Check out the **agenda** on the next page.

REGISTER NOW

Best Wishes,

Your Corpus Curiosum Team 🧠

corpuscuriosum.com

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AGENDA

Each session is scheduled at **3:00 PM (GMT+1)**.

JUNE 1

CURIOUS MINDS: CRITICAL THINKING IN NEUROSCIENCE

We all know what doing neuroscience feels like: you wake up early, you go to the lab, you run experiments, you analyze the data you recorded, you get frustrated because the p-value is over 0.05 and you go to sleep. The question to ask here is: are we actually able to conduct thorough, credible research when being stuck in this intense “neuroscientific hamster wheel”? Is this what you envisioned how science would be like? Challenging exactly that is one of the goals of corpus Curiosum, which is why we would love to discuss this with you during this first session. Through different networking activities, we will be exploring critical topics that will be covered by the rest of the talks in this fourth edition. Through this, we want to add context to the sessions and add a holistic perspective to the series. You love our talks but always felt like you wanted more discussion and interaction? Are you keen to engage with fellow ECRs to share your concerns? Then we welcome you to our first Curious Minds Networking event!

JUNE 8

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM TINY BRAINS? BIG LESSONS FROM ORGANOID CULTURE

Folu Oyefeso | Loma Linda University

The human brain is a complex network of cells with special functions to control how we interact with the world. Within the brain, these cells are grouped into areas responsible for thinking, moving, sensing, among many other things! However, it is notoriously difficult to study the human brain directly and so scientists use animal and two-dimensional cell culture models to learn more about it. Recently, trained teams of cell biologists and neuroscientists have begun to generate three-dimensional brain organoids, which are small clumps of tissue containing the same types of cells we see in the brain. These tissues can model specific brain regions (e.g. cortex) and diseases (e.g. Zika virus infection or Parkinson's disease). In this session, we'll discuss how these models have been used and how they could be used in the future.

JUNE 15

THE HUMAN BRAIN: A PHILOSOPHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE

Dr Javier de Felipe | Polytechnic University of Madrid

The appearance, expansion and differentiation of a highly complex multi-laminated cortex, the “neocortex” is a fundamental event during the evolution of the mammalian telencephalon. This cortical region is the most human part of the nervous system because it is the brain structure whose activity is directly related to the emergence of those capacities that distinguish humans from other mammals. Thanks to the neocortex we can perform such extraordinary and highly complex tasks as writing a book, composing a symphony or inventing the computer. Yet, what is special about the human cerebral cortex is a longstanding question in neuroscience. Fortunately, at present, there are methods that allow us to examine human brain organization and function at a level of detail similar to or even greater than that we can obtain with animal models. In this talk, I will emphasise how the application of these methods has shown that the human cerebral cortex displays clear species-specific variations in cortical microstructure and that it is likely that as more detailed studies are carried out on human cortical circuits, we will discover many more differences at the genetic, molecular, structural, and physiological levels between humans and other species. Thus, not only does the increase in size, and therefore in complexity, of our brains seem to be responsible for our higher or more abstract mental abilities but also, the specialization of our cortical circuits appears to be critical.

JUNE 22

**BLACK IN NEURO:
CHALLENGES IN RESEARCH AND MEDICINE**

Dr Thiago Arzua | Columbia University

Neuroscientists sit at a unique position, studying the same organ that is responsible for so much of our personalities, thoughts, and opinions. It is not surprising then, that from its origins, interpersonal and societal issues were directly linked back to neuroscience findings. What sometimes is missed is how societal norms and expectations affect the research itself. In the case of systemic racial inequalities, that gets translated into poorly designed or poorly interpreted studies that tend to serve as tools for promoting racist policies. With that in mind, this talk will explore the historical origins and the modern-day forms by which what we call neuro racism takes place. From phrenology to eugenics, to still-believed myths of Black people's higher tolerance for pain, neuro racism is not just persistent, as it is also prevalent. Understanding how these biases are formed, and what we can do as a field to combat them is essential for a more just and equitable neuroscience.

JUNE 29

**WORKSHOP:
MENTAL HEALTH IN ACADEMIA – STATUS-QUO AND PRACTICAL
IMPLICATIONS FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS' WELLBEING**

Katharina Bögl & Sandra Naumann | Scholar Minds

Although many academics love their research and experience fulfilment from various tasks of their profession, mounting evidence suggests that working in academia might contribute to mental health problems. We at Scholar Minds (www.scholar-minds.net), a group of early-career researchers (ECRs) of Berlin's universities and research institutions, strive to ensure the mental health of Berlin's early career researchers by improving the status-quo on an individual and institutional level. Based on our Scholar Minds surveys, we will first provide an overview of ECRs' current mental health status. Secondly, we want to unravel unhelpful thoughts and habits which ultimately impact ECRs' mental health and show how to build helpful habits to overcome challenging times.
