Ranganatha Sitaram is a full professor and member of faculty in the Diagnostic Imaging Department and Director of Multimodal Functional Brain Imaging and Neurorehabilitation at St Jude Children's Research Hospital. He is a researcher in the interdisciplinary areas of cognitive neuroscience, biomedical engineering, and computational intelligence.

Ranganatha Sitaram has bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from India, and a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Tubingen (Germany). He has wide international experience and worked in several faculty positions, including in the University of Tubingen, the University of Florida in Gainesville (USA), the Pontificia Universidad in Santiago (Chile), and visiting professorships at the Wyss Center for Neuro & Bio Engineering in Geneva (Switzerland) and the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Biomedical Sciences (India).

Abstract: My speech will highlight some of the most prominent developments in BCI, BMI, and neurofeedback, providing a future outlook on the topic. Furthermore, it will consider some of the questions concerning the relationship between neuromodulation and human agency.

Nicola Di Stefano is a researcher at the National Research Council of Italy. His research interests lie at the intersection between philosophy, psychology, and cognitive science, with a focus on the philosophy and psychology of perception, aesthetics, ethics and technology. He has published over 30 articles in scientific journals, including Science Engineering Ethics, International Journal of Social Robotics, Attention, Perception & Psychophysics, Review of Philosophy and Psychology. He is currently involved in several EU-funded research projects (CONBOTS, NIMA, B-CRATOS).

Abstract: Recent approaches to the ethics of technological artefacts proposed that, in order to determine what value an artefact embodies, it must be possible to determine what actions it affords. We can refer to this idea with the term "ethical affordance". In my talk I will try to argue that, while the notion of ethical affordance can be straightforwardly applied to approach the ethics of traditional tools that have a material structure, it seems less helpful when it comes to facing issues arising from fully implanted neurotechnologies, such as BCIs, which lack material structure. I conclude suggesting that the latter technologies call for a shift towards a novel and more adequate ethical framework.
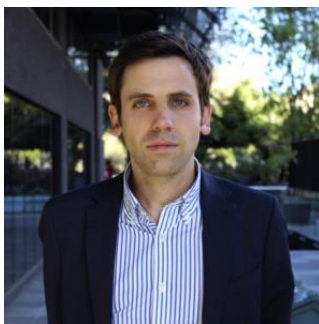
Luca Valera is a professor at the University of Valladolid (Spain), Department of Philosophy. He studied Philosophy at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano. He holds a PhD in Bioethics and Philosophy from the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma. His doctoral thesis was on the subject of human ecology, in the field of environmental ethics. He hold several professor positions, of Medical Anthropology at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Roma and of Human Ecology and Sustainability at the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma, taught philosophy and bioethics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Abstract: Along with the rapid evolution of neurotechnologies, ethical and political concerns have grown based on the fear of the potential misuse of neurotechnology. This is the case of neurorights. In this speech, I will focus on some philosophical and ethical problems in neurolegislations, pointing out the necessity of urgent bioethical considerations on these emerging technologies.