

# Introduction

This essay collection marks the conclusion of the MARBLE (Maastricht University Research Based Learning) for Excellence project on Neurolaw in 2013. Its objective was to address some of the complexities arising from the intersection of law and science. In particular, our attention was focused on the possible contributions that neuroimaging and neuroscience in general could yield to the field of law. The consequent research addressed the issue from a variety of perspectives – legal philosophy, criminal procedure, as well as human rights and rehabilitation.

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During the project we had the chance to visit the WODC (Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – en Documentatiecentrum) under the Ministry of Security and Justice in The Hague. The appointment, led by Professor Frans L Leeuw, made clear that the ‘real-world’ inclusion of neuroscience was not the kind of distant scenario some of the academics in the field seemed to envisage – on the contrary, it was already taking place. The visit certainly provided additional impetus and motivation for the research process.

However, perhaps the most eye-opening experience of this project took place no further than the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of Maastricht University. A discussion led by Professor Rainer Goebel illuminated the cutting-edge research into the human brain and behaviour that is taking place across the bridge. The Brains Unlimited scanner lab has at its disposal exceptional know-how and technology, and perhaps these could one day even be harnessed for inter-faculty neurolaw research.

A third event of importance was the Student Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> of May, which gave us the possibility to present our research to others and receive feedback and tips from accomplished experts. In this context, we would like to thank all the experts and guest lecturers for their insight and patience; Dr. Gary Low, Dr. David Roef, Drs. Liesbeth Vink, Prof. Hans Nelen, Dr. Hans Stauder and Dr. David Townend.

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