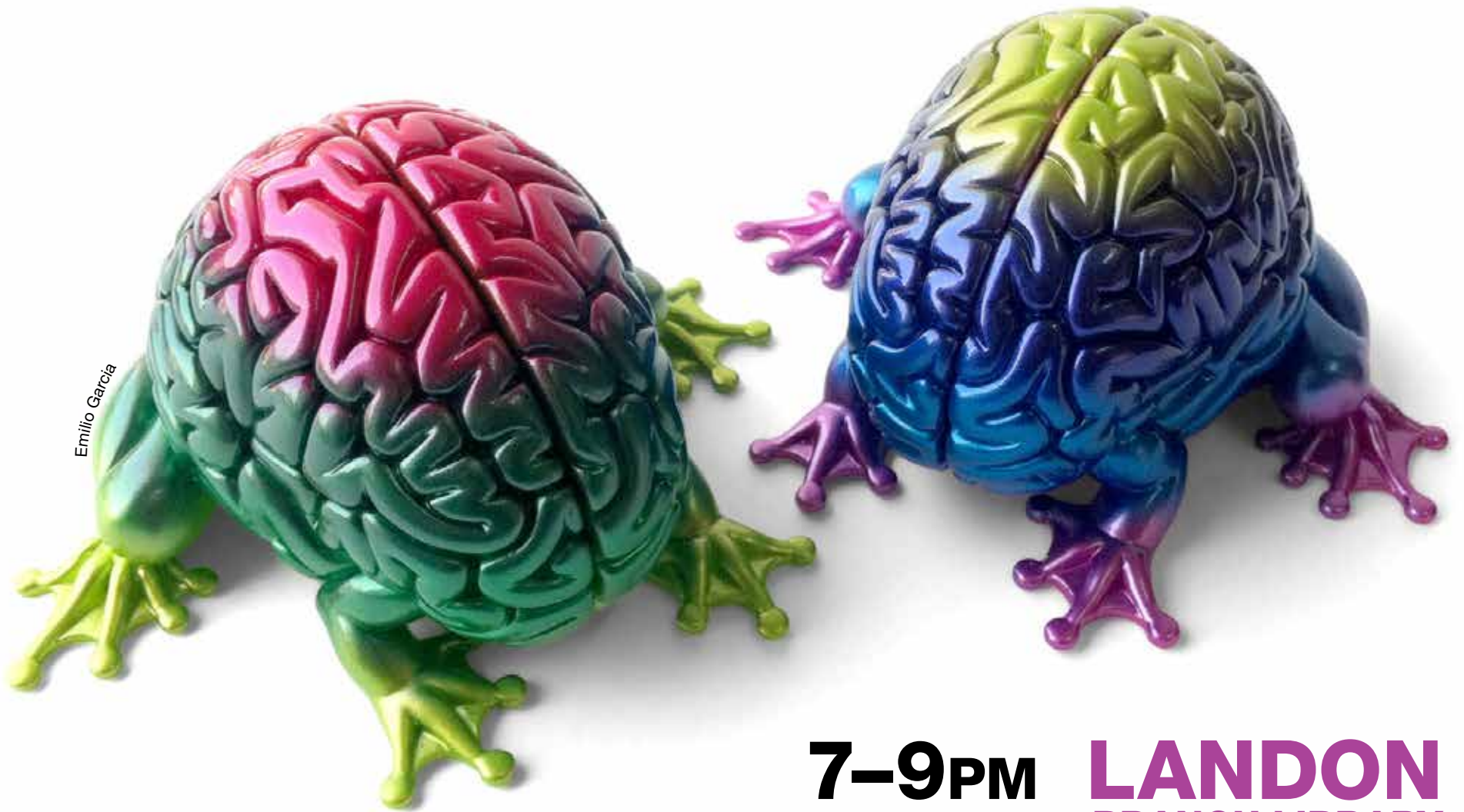


THE BRAIN BOOM:

Neuroscience and Society

A lecture series exploring the current relationship between neuroscience and society at large. Presented by the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University.



7-9PM
WEDNESDAYS

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OCTOBER 5	OCTOBER 12	OCTOBER 26	NOVEMBER 2
The Body in 'Mental Illness'	Understanding Mental Illness: Will a Single Explanatory Model Do?	Brains and Persons	Why Neuroscience Needs "Passion"
<p>If mental and physical are separate domains, "mental illness" should not involve the body. But bodily symptoms are common among people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders. Examples are altered perceptions of hot and cold, and hallucinations of touch. Overlooking the body may contribute to the stigma of psychiatric diagnosis.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Catherine Stinson, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rotman Institute of Philosophy</p>	<p>The medical model of mental illness is often characterized as assuming that mental illness is a disorder of the brain. In contrast, the biopsychosocial model allows for the possibility that mental illness is caused by a combination of biological, psychological and environmental causes. Which model is superior for understanding, explaining and treating mental illness?</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Jackie Sullivan, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Western University</p>	<p>Is increasing knowledge of how our brains cause behaviour undermining the very conception of freedom that moral and legal responsibilities presuppose? Is our sense of ourselves as persons under assault from science? Must we rethink criminal responsibility? I present contemporary philosophical views of free will and question how they square with neuroscience.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Chris Viger, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Western University</p>	<p>After a brief review of the history of affective neuroscience and the theoretical status of emotion in contemporary neuroscience, it will be argued that present day neuroscience suffers from a serious theoretical limitation that is largely due to its focus on short-term observation and reliance on laboratory measurement technologies that restrict it to the study of affective states of short duration. Consequently we have very little theoretical understanding of how short term affective states, like emotions, are organized into complex networks that evolve overtime, forming complex affective processes of long duration, in which individual emotions are organized in law-like ways. The solution is to reintroduce the vocabulary and study of long term 'passions' into neuroscience and distinguish these from the individual emotions which they direct and organize.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Louis Charland, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Health Sciences (joint), and Department of Psychiatry (cross), Western University</p>