

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Location: Zoom- Please [RSVP](#) for link or e-mail bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu

4:30pm- 6:00pm

The Neuroscience and Neuroaesthetics of Creativity and the Artistic Mind

Suzanne Nalbantian, PhD / Vincent de Luise, MD

What is Creativity? What characterizes the creative and artistic mind? Among its components are memory, imagination, intelligence and decision-making, and emotion. Can we localize creative processing in the brain? What are the neural networks and brain states that subserve the “aha” moments? Cognitive neuroscientists have identified many of the neurotransmitters and interconnections of these networks. Researchers in both the arts and sciences can demonstrate how the dynamic interaction of spontaneous and unconscious states with conscious, regulatory control contributes to creativity.

In this panel discussion and inquiry, Professors Suzanne Nalbantian and Vincent de Luise will provide a broad and deep discussion of the burgeoning field of the cognitive neuroscience of creativity, across a spectrum of domains: neurophysiology, neurochemistry, neuropsychology, functional neuroimaging and humanistic studies. Fresh findings in these areas are drawn from Nalbantian’s 2019 edited Oxford UP volume, *Secrets of Creativity: What Neuroscience, the Arts and Our Minds Reveal*.



Suzanne Nalbantian is Professor of Comparative Literature at Long Island University and an interdisciplinary scholar. She has been the Chair of the ICLA Research Committee on Literature and Neuroscience. She holds a B.A. from Barnard College and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. She is the author of four scholarly books and three edited volumes. She is a pioneer in the interdisciplinary study of neuroscience and the humanities. Her book *Memory in Literature: From Rousseau to Neuroscience* (Palgrave 2003) forged new pathways linking literary depictions of memory to neuroscience. She is the principal editor of *The Memory Process: Neuroscientific and Humanistic Perspectives* (MIT Press 2010), which features original essays by both humanists and brain scientists. She has lectured widely throughout the U.S. and Europe on the topic of memory at such

institutions as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Collège de France (Paris), the European Science Foundation, Max-Planck (Tübingen), and the Pasteur Institute (Paris). She has directed interdisciplinary symposia in Neuroscience and the Humanities at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. She is coauthor with neuroscientist Jean-Pierre Changeux of “A Neurobiological Theory of Aesthetic Experience.” She is the editor (with coeditor neuroscientist Paul Matthews) of the volume, *Secrets of Creativity: What Neuroscience, the Arts and Our Minds Reveal*, published by Oxford University Press in September 2019.



Vincent de Luise MD is an assistant professor of ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine, a distinguished visiting scholar at Stony Brook University School of Medicine, and on the adjunct faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC). Dr deLuise was also a 2019 visiting professor at University of Rome “La Sapienza” School of Medicine, in Rome, Italy, in their masters program in psychoneurobiology.

Dr. de Luise is a *phi beta kappa* graduate of Princeton University, the Weill Cornell Medical College, and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami. He has done fellowships at Harvard University in medical humanities and at the Proctor Foundation of the University of California San Francisco in cornea and ocular immunology.

Dr. de Luise is active at the intersection of the humanities and medicine. He serves on the humanities and medicine committee at WCMC and is program annotator for the WCMC Music and Medicine Orchestra. He has given an annual lecture on art and visual perception at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). During his medical training, Dr. de Luise studied clarinet with the principal clarinetists of the NYC Opera, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida Philharmonic.

Dr. de Luise is the Cultural Ambassador of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and is president of the Connecticut Summer Opera Foundation. He organized and performed at the Connecticut Mozart Festival, and at Carnegie Recital Hall with the Talcott String Quartet. He is a co-founder of the annual classical music concert at the AAO, and writes frequently about the brain and music, and visual perception and the art