



Interactional Ethics for Healthy Open Societies: Call for Contributions to Brainiacs 2026 Special Issue ^{*}

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Editors' Invitation

We are experiencing dark times of worsening fascism and authoritarianism around the world, with protracted military wars killing people and escalating information wars in traditional, social, and scholarly media spreading propaganda and lies that harm public safety, community health, scientific truth, and research integrity. Social media are flooded by hate-speech and generate algorithmic addiction. Artificial intelligence is biased by training data and often suffers hallucinations. Fraudulent science, pseudo-science, junk science, and "alternative facts" are corrupting scientific and political discourse, while post-modernistic schools of philosophy, such as the "Dark Enlightenment" play an evil game of conceptual poetry. In response to these assaults on the rights and liberties of individuals and organizations in democracies, the Brainiacs Journal invites submissions for contributions to an envisioned Special Issue on *Interactional Ethics* and their relations to public health and safety, social cognitive neurosciences, and philosophical political sciences in defense of democracy and decency.

Open Science for Open Societies

Aims of the *Brainiacs Journal* encompass all aspects of Brain Health Alliance (BHA) activities and the research agenda of the BHA Virtual Institute (BHAVI). The Brainiacs Journal reviews and publishes scholarly research from investigators working in the fields of imaging and computing sciences, information and communication tools and technologies, biomedical engineering and medical imaging, applied to research problems in brain sciences and medicine. Investigations addressing brain problems involving neurodegenerative disorders and dementias will be actively encouraged and solicited, but work on other areas of brain sciences and medicine will also be considered. Stated more broadly, the journal will consider publishing research articles that study problems involving the application of biomedical computing, biomedical engineering, and/or biomedical informatics to brain sciences and medicine including clinical trials of brain imaging. All documents published in Brainiacs will remain fully open access and freely available without any page charges or publishing fees paid by authors and without any access fees paid by readers. Financial support for the journal has been provided by the nonprofit Brain Health Alliance.

Research Topics

Interactional ethics has been discussed in Taswell's 1976 "From the Absolute of Either-Or To the Uncertainty of And" reprinted (Taswell 2025) with beim Graben's commentary (beim Graben 2025) found in this issue of the *Brainiacs Journal*. As Editors, we seek to compile a Special Issue on topics related to *Interactional Ethics for Healthy Open Societies* to address the challenges of contemporary global political and societal changes. We define a *healthy open society* as (a) one that does not self-destruct, ie, a group of individuals that cooperate and collaborate together as a collective and community to prevent self-destruction, promote life and save lives, and preserve their societal history and cultural heritage, and (b) one that does not other-destruct, ie, that respects the independence and sovereign rights of other healthy open societies to preserve their societal history and cultural heritage.

Related research topics include the multi-faceted aspects of cultural anthropology, social psychology, universalistic philosophy, intrapersonal morals and interpersonal ethics that serve as the foundation of many religions, faith-based, humanistic, and humanitarian nonprofit organizations, and that serve the common good of the people and citizenry of a democracy. Additional research topics may also be drawn from the domains of inquiry found in systems-theoretic sociology, constructivist-cognitive neurosciences, behavioral neurology, forensic psychiatry, artificial intelligence, latent semantic analysis, cellular automata, matrix algebras, and ternary logic (Mizraji 2025) among many other related fields for modeling life, living systems, and questions about awareness of choices and consequences (Taswell 2023). We invite submissions that analyze decision-making processes across all scales of life from molecular to cellular, from organ to organism, and from individual person to groups, collectives, communities, and societies (Taswell 2024).

Important Dates

The planned schedule during 2026 calls for submission by September 30, publication with editorial review by October 30, and revision with open review by November 30.

Further Reading

References contain a list of resources for further reading on questions and topics related to interactional ethics for healthy open societies.

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