



(/jspui)

/ Princeton University Doctoral Dissertations, 2011-2017 (/jspui/handle/88435/dsp01td96k251d)

/ Anthropology (/jspui/handle/88435/dsp01pn89d660h)

Please use this identifier to cite or link to this item: <http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01bg257f22b>

Title:	Neuro-Innovation: Translational Science, Ethics & the Financialization of Health
Authors:	Robinson, Mark (/jspui/browse?type=author&value=Robinson%2C+Mark)
Advisors:	Biehl, Joao (/jspui/browse?type=advisor&value=Biehl%2C+Joao) Rouse, Carolyn (/jspui/browse?type=advisor&value=Rouse%2C+Carolyn)
Contributors:	Anthropology Department
Keywords:	Education (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Education) Innovation (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Innovation) Neuroethics (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Neuroethics) Science (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Science) Technology and Society (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Technology+and+Society) Translational Medicine (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Translational+Medicine) Translational Neuroscience (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Translational+Neuroscience)
Subjects:	Cultural anthropology (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Cultural+anthropology) Medical ethics (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Medical+ethics) Neurosciences (/jspui/browse?type=subject&value=Neurosciences)
Issue Date:	2014
Publisher:	Princeton, NJ : Princeton University
Abstract:	<p>This dissertation is an ethnographic exploration of the ethical, scientific, and economic values and practices underlying clinical translational research in the United States, with a particular focus on the development of brain-based technologies. The 2000s represent a key moment in this field with a large monetary investment on national levels and the creation of dozens of new translational research programs across the country dedicated to turning the nation's scientific discoveries into new treatments for patients. Investigating the various actors, institutions, funds, and discourses involved in the constitution of the burgeoning field of Translational Neuroscience (TN), I carried out twenty-four months of fieldwork in California. I conducted participant observation in a neuroscience laboratory, attended industry-sponsored events, and engaged medical researchers and patients and their families in experimental clinical settings in Ohio. I also analyzed market reports and critically reviewed the TN literature as well as social studies of this emerging field. Throughout the dissertation, I show that the emergence and consolidation of TN in the early 2000s coincided with the corporatization of healthcare and a crisis of innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. TN also involved a systematic transfer or outsourcing of investment risk onto non-profit universities. Both adopting and challenging the analytic of "risk," I argue that TN has become a key site for industry actors "to de-risk" high-risk neurotechnology investments. Thus, rather than being principally about health, TN may be better thought of as a contemporary form of finance. Moreover, as neurotechnological products are designed and folded into care, this study uncovers the ways in which foreclosed knowledge pathways and risk infiltrate clinical practice and patient decision- making. The dissertation thus illuminates changing ideas of health and of medical ethics associated with translational science and theorizes the unintended effects and risks triggered by TN's fast-paced production pipeline. This ethnographic study contributes to the public understanding of the institutionalization of translational science and problematizes the role of finance in the design of large-scale health interventions.</p>
URI:	http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01bg257f22b (http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01bg257f22b)
Alternate format:	The Mudd Manuscript Library retains one bound copy of each dissertation. Search for these copies in the library's main catalog (http://catalog.princeton.edu)
Type of Material:	Academic dissertations (Ph.D.)
Language:	en
Appears in Collections:	Anthropology (/jspui/handle/88435/dsp01pn89d660h)

Files in This Item:

File	Description	Size	Format
Robinson_princeton_0181D_11002.pdf		12.56 MB	Adobe PDF

View/Download (/jspui/bitstream/88435/dsp01bg257f22b/1/Robinson_p

Show full item record (/jspui/handle/88435/dsp01bg257f22b?mode=full)

Items in Dataspace are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Search

[Advanced Search \(/jspui/simple-search?location=88435/dsp01pn89d660h\)](#)

Browse

Issue Date

Author

Academic Advisor

Subject