

Schedule

Conference Program

Day No. 1: Thursday, March 12, 2026

[Brockman Hall for Opera](#) ([Parking Info](#))

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
7:30 p.m.	<p>Public Lecture</p> <p>David Eagleman (Class of 1993) is a neuroscientist, author and science communicator. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and a New York Times Best selling author of a number of popular science books about the brain, as well as the writer and presenter of <i>The Brain with David Eagleman</i> and the host of the podcast <i>Inner Cosmos with David Eagleman</i>.</p>

Day No. 2: Friday, March 13, 2026

[Hudspeth Auditorium, Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies](#)
([Parking Info](#))

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
8 a.m.	Breakfast/Welcome from President and Provost
9 a.m.	Topic #1: Solving the aging brain? Approaching the DPRIT challenge The first topic takes a dive deeper into understanding and treating the brain diseases associated with aging, particularly dementia. How can we develop equitable, scalable approaches to reducing the looming economic and societal consequences of these disorders? Costanza Cortes , Gerontology, University of Southern California Bruno Kluwe-Schiavon , Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, UT Health Sciences Audrey Duarte , Psychology, UT Austin Lauren Nicholas , Geriatrics, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus Nancy Berlinger , Hastings Center Alice Luo Clayton , Chief Executive Officer, McKnight Brain Research Foundation Moderator: Rosa Uribe , Co-Director Neuroscience Initiative, Rice Brain Institute

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
12:00 p.m.	Lunch + Provocation Talk #1: Neuroscience needs the Arts <u>Memo Akten & Katie Hofstadter</u> are Southern California based interdisciplinary artists, researchers, and collaborators whose work investigates the entanglements of technology, consciousness, embodiment, and culture. Merging backgrounds in dance, writing, poetry, drawing, sculpture, computer science, artificial intelligence, computational art, and public practice, they create speculative simulations, data dramatizations, immersive installations, and narrative experiments that probe the human condition in an age of artificial intelligence and accelerating transformation. Together, their collaborative research and practice explore how emerging technologies—particularly AI and data systems—interact with the embodied, emotional, and ecological dimensions of human experience.

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
1:30 p.m.	<p>Topic #2 Next generation neuroscience inspired cures</p> <p>The second topic will focus on a broader set of new advances in cures for diseases of the brain, across genetic, pharmacological, or neuromodulatory approaches, along with social and ethical considerations for these new approaches.</p> <p><u>Sameer Sheth</u>, Neurosurgery, BCM <u>Huda Zogbhi</u>, Director, Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute, BCM <u>Tim Schroeder</u>, Philosophy, Rice <u>Christina Tringides</u>, Materials Sciences & NanoEngineering, Rice <u>Rua Williams</u>, Applied and Creative Computing, Purdue <u>Matthew Liao</u>, Director, Center for Bioethics, NYU</p> <p>Moderator: <u>Behnaam Aazhang</u> – Director, Rice Brain Institute/Rice NEI</p>
4:30 p.m.	<p>Provocation Talk #2: Neuroscience needs to think about Culture</p> <p><u>Cristine Legare</u> is a professor of Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin and the director of the Center for Applied Cognitive Science. Her research examines the interplay of the universal human mind and the variations of culture to study cognitive and cultural evolution. She will discuss the need to take cultural variation into account when translating neuroscience into applications that have sustaining societal impact.</p>

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
6:30 p.m.	<p data-bbox="365 207 1347 247">Dinner at the Moody Center & Performance of “Free Rein”</p> <p data-bbox="365 310 1451 884">“Free Rein” is a real-world neuro-imaging study of creativity. Two dancers will be wearing wireless mobile brain-body imaging equipment while performing a 35 minute dance work that alternates between fixed and improvised music and dance. The musical score was composed by Anthony Brandt, Professor of Composition at the Shepherd School, who also conceived of the study. Choreography is by Andy and Dionne Noble, Artistic Directors of NobleMotion Dance. The research team is headed by neuroscientist Anna Abraham, Director of the Torrance Center for Creativity at the University of Georgia and bioengineer Andrew Nordin from the University of Houston.</p> <p data-bbox="365 947 1373 1039"><u>Anthony Brandt</u>, Professor of Composition at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University</p> <p data-bbox="365 1056 1292 1096"><u>Andy Noble</u>, Co-Artistic Director, NobleMotion Dance</p> <p data-bbox="365 1110 1321 1150"><u>Dionne Noble</u>, Co-Artistic Director, NobleMotion Dance</p> <p data-bbox="365 1165 1321 1257"><u>Anna Abraham</u>, Director, Torrance Center for Creativity, University of Georgia</p> <p data-bbox="365 1272 1378 1312"><u>Andrew Nordin</u>, Assistant Professor, University of Houston</p> <p data-bbox="365 1327 1300 1419"><u>Badie Khaleghian</u>, Assistant Professor of Digital Music, Bowdoin College</p>

Day No. 3: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Hudspeth Auditorium, Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
(Parking Info)

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
8 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m.	<p data-bbox="363 296 1448 333">Topic #3: Neuroscience-informed education policy and practice</p> <p data-bbox="363 401 1442 648">The third topic focuses on how neuroscience research impacts education policy and practice, focusing both on the research to policy pathway and how typical practice in neuroscience may contribute to educational inequity or lose some of what is critical about learning.</p> <p data-bbox="363 716 873 753"><u>Flavio Cunha</u>, Economics, Rice</p> <p data-bbox="363 768 1292 806"><u>Mark Seidenberg</u>, Psychology, University of Wisconsin</p> <p data-bbox="363 821 1321 913"><u>Anna Abraham</u>, Director, Torrance Center for Creativity, University of Georgia</p> <p data-bbox="363 928 1008 966"><u>Robert Englebretson</u>, Linguistics, Rice</p> <p data-bbox="363 980 1425 1018"><u>Rachael Gabriel</u>, Literacy Education, University of Connecticut</p> <p data-bbox="363 1033 1130 1071"><u>Oscar Woolnough</u>, Neurosurgery, UT-Health</p> <p data-bbox="363 1085 1382 1123"><u>Maryellen MacDonald</u>, Psychology, University of Wisconsin</p> <p data-bbox="363 1190 1406 1278">Moderator: <u>Simon Fischer-Baum</u>, Co-Director Brain & Society, Rice Brain Institute</p>
12:00 p.m.	<p data-bbox="363 1388 1448 1425">Lunch & Provocation Talk #3: Neuroscience needs Public Health</p> <p data-bbox="363 1493 1451 1845"><u>Luz Garcini</u> is the Director for Center for Community and Public Health at Kinder Institute and an Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences. Her research, community, advocacy and policy work focuses on identifying, understanding, and addressing the health needs of historically marginalized communities from a biobehavioral and sociocultural perspective</p>
1:30 p.m.	3-minute talks about brain research at Rice from PhDs and Post-docs

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
2:30 p.m.	<p data-bbox="363 205 1240 247">Topic #4: Towards a brain economy transformation</p> <p data-bbox="363 310 1435 457"><u>Agustín Ibáñez</u>, Director of the Latin American Brain Health Institute at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, and Professor in Global Brain Health at GBHI in Trinity College</p> <p data-bbox="363 470 1354 562"><u>Kana Enomoto</u>, Director of Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute</p> <p data-bbox="363 575 971 617"><u>Steve Carnevale</u>, Blue Ash Ventures</p> <p data-bbox="363 680 1435 772">Moderator: <u>Harris Eyre</u>, Co-Director, Brain & Society, Rice Brain Institute</p>
3:45 p.m.	<p data-bbox="363 877 1338 919">Provocation Talk #4: Neuroscience in the Political Sphere</p> <p data-bbox="363 982 1458 1558"><u>Facundo Manes</u> is a neurologist, neuroscientist, bestselling author, and public leader from Argentina whose work explores the intersection of brain science, society, and democratic life. Alongside his medical and scientific career, Dr. Manes served as an elected National Congressman, where he chaired the Committee on Science, Innovation, and Technology and was the author and key driving force behind Argentina’s Brain Health Bill—an unprecedented piece of legislation advancing the use of neuroscientific evidence in public policy. His work focuses on how neuroscience can inform culture, governance, and long-term societal development.</p>

TIME	SESSION/DESCRIPTION
5:15 p.m.	<p data-bbox="363 205 976 247">Summary discussion and next steps</p> <p data-bbox="363 310 1430 510">Organizing committee will lead a final discussion to tie together the themes of the conference and plan for next steps towards bridging the gap between neuroscience research and impact on society</p>

Contact Information

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