

# Academic curriculum vitae

## Merlin Bittlinger, M.A.

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## Work experience

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- April 2019            Research fellow, full-time position at the QUEST – Center for Transforming Biomedical Research, Berlin Institute of Health (BIH), AG Translational Bioethics working on ethical questions about the prospective justification of “early” clinical research (“FIH”, “phase 1”).
- April 2016 –  
March 2019            Research fellow, 65% of a full-time position at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, CCM, Division of Mind and Brain Research as part of the Ethics project of the ERA-NET NEURON project “Psychiatric Neurosurgery: Ethical, Legal and Social Issues” (01GP1621A).

## Education

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- Since Nov.  
2015                    **Doctoral candidate** (Dr. rer. medic), Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin  
First supervisor: PD Dr. Sabine Müller,  
Second supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dr. Henrik Walter
- Sept. 2015            Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, **Master of Arts** in Philosophy  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Olaf Müller, Prof. Dr. Gerd Graßhoff
- June 2009            Undergraduate Institution: University of Osnabrück, Germany  
Degree: **Bachelor of Science** in Cognitive Science  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Jan Slaby, Prof. Dr. Achim Stephan

## Peer-reviewed publications

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- 2019                    Guillen Gonzalez, D., **Bittlinger**, M., Erk, S., & Müller, S. (2019).  
Neuroscientific and Genetic Evidence in Criminal Cases: A Double-Edged

- Sword in Germany but not in the USA?. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, 2343.  
DOI: [10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02343](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02343)
- 2018 **Bittlinger**, M & Müller, S. Opening the Debate on Deep Brain Stimulation for Dementia - A Critical Evaluation of Rationale, Shortcomings, and Ethical Justification. *BMC Medical Ethics*. DOI: [10.1186/s12910-018-0275-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-018-0275-4)
- 2018 Cabrera, L. Y., **Bittlinger**, M., Lou, H., Müller, S., & Illes, J. (2018). Reader comments to media reports on psychiatric neurosurgery: past history casts shadows on the future. *Acta Neurochirurgica*, 160(12), 2501-2507. DOI: [10.1007/s00701-018-3696-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00701-018-3696-4)
- 2018 **Bittlinger**, M. (2018). Call of duty at the frontier of research: normative epistemology for high-risk/high-gain studies of deep brain stimulation. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, Clinical Neuroethics issue*, 27(4), 647-659 DOI: [10.1017/S0963180118000142](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180118000142)
- 2018 Müller, S., **Bittlinger**, M., Brukamp, K., Christen, M., Friedrich, O., Gruber, M. C., Leefmann, J., Merkel, G., Nagel, S.K. & Jox, R. J. (2018). Neuroethik–Geschichte, Definition und Gegenstandsbereich eines neuen Wissenschaftsgebiets. *Ethik in der Medizin*, 1-16. DOI: [10.1007/s00481-018-0477-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00481-018-0477-9).
- 2017 **Bittlinger**, M. (2017). The Patient's Voice in DBS Research: Advancing the Discussion through Methodological Rigor. *AJOB Neuroscience*, 8(2), 118-120. DOI: [10.1080/21507740.2017.1320323](https://doi.org/10.1080/21507740.2017.1320323).
- 2017 Cabrera, L., **Bittlinger**, M., Lou, H., Müller, S., Illes, J. The Re-emergence of Psychiatric Neurosurgery: Insights from a Cross-national Study of Media Coverage. *Acta Neurochirurgica*. DOI: [10.1007/s00701-017-3428-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00701-017-3428-1).
- 2017 Viaña, J. N. M., **Bittlinger**, M., & Gilbert, F. (2017). Ethical considerations for deep brain stimulation trials in patients with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 58(2):289-301. DOI: [10.3233/JAD-161073](https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-161073).
- 2017 Müller, S., **Bittlinger**, M., & Walter, H. (2017). Threats to neurosurgical patients posed by the personal identity debate. *Neuroethics*, 10(2), 299-310. DOI: [10.1007/s12152-017-9329-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-017-9329-4).
- 2014 Christen, M., Ineichen, C., **Bittlinger**, M., Bothe, H. W., & Müller, S. (2014). Ethical focal points in the international practice of deep brain stimulation. *AJOB Neuroscience*, 5(4), 65-80. DOI: [10.1080/21507740.2014.939380](https://doi.org/10.1080/21507740.2014.939380).

- 2012 Christen, M., **Bittlinger**, M., Walter, H., Brugger, P., & Müller, S. (2012). Dealing with side effects of deep brain stimulation: lessons learned from stimulating the STN. *AJOB Neuroscience*, 3(1), 37-43. DOI: [10.1080/21507740.2011.635627](https://doi.org/10.1080/21507740.2011.635627).
- Submitted* Cabrera, L., Courchesne, C., **Bittlinger**, M., Müller, S. Martinez, R., Racine, E., Illes, J. Looking Back and Looking Forward: Public Perceptions of Psychiatric Neurosurgery in Canada, Germany and Spain.
- Abstract*  
*(selected for oral presentation)* Schwietering, J., **Bittlinger**, M., & Strech, D. (2019). 42 Investigator's brochures: do they adhere to basic principles of evidence synthesis methods?. *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*, 24(Suppl 1), A26. DOI: [10.1136/bmjebm-2019-EBMLive.50](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjebm-2019-EBMLive.50)
- Abstract*  
*(selected for oral presentation)* **Bittlinger**, M., & Schwietering, J. (2019). 26 Is the revised cochrane risk of bias tool research ready for the era of open science and preregistration?. *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*, 24(Suppl 1), A18. DOI: [10.1136/bmjebm-2019-EBMLive.34](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjebm-2019-EBMLive.34)
- Abstract*  
*(Poster)* **Bittlinger**, M., & Mueller, S. (2017). P 137 An ethical perspective on deep brain stimulation as an investigational treatment for Alzheimer's disease. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 128(10), e395-e396. DOI:[10.1016/j.clinph.2017.06.210](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinph.2017.06.210)

## Oral presentations

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Sept. 27, 2019 Göttingen, Germany	63 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Academy for Ethics in Medicine	Research Ethics section talk (30 min.): <i>„Collective Epistemic Responsibilities in the Era of Complex Biomedical Research: Open Science perspectives for Research Ethics“</i>
July 16, 2019 Oxford, UK	Centre for Evidence Based Medicine, University of Oxford & The BMJ	Talk (15 min.): <i>“Is the revised Cochrane risk of bias tool research ready for the era of open science and preregistration?”</i>
February 22 and 23, 2019	Final conference of the ERA-NET NEURON project “Psychiatric Neurosurgery – Ethical, Legal, and Societal Issues“	Talk (30 min): <i>„Decision-making of patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder for psychiatric neurosurgery“</i>  Talk (30 min): <i>„Experimental deep brain stimulation for Alzheimer disease: scientific and ethical pitfalls of the exploratory research agenda“</i>

June 20-22, 2018, Paris, France	Neuroethics Network of the Brain and Spine Institute (ICM)	Talk (15 min.) and panel discussion: „ <i>An Ethical Perspective on High-Risk/High Gain Deep Brain Stimulation Studies</i> “
Nov. 9, 2017  Washington DC, USA	Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society	Talk (20 min.) and panel discussion: “ <i>Ethical Considerations for Innovative Research Involving Unknown Risks: The Example of Deep Brain Stimulation for Alzheimer Disease</i> ”
Sept. 28, 2017  Hannover, Germany	61 <sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Academy for Ethics in Medicine	Research Ethics section talk (30 min): “ <i>What Makes Risky Innovative Research Good? An Argument for Evidence-Based Criteria for Risk-Benefit Assessment by the Example of Deep Brain Stimulation for Alzheimer Disease</i> ”

### Teaching experience

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2016-2018	Teaching substitute of PD Dr. Sabine Müller. Course “Basics of medical ethics”, 2 lessons (90 minutes), Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
2007-2009	Tutor of the seminar course “Philosophy of Mind” (2 credit hours per week) of Prof. Achim Stephan and Dr. Jan Slaby, in the Winter Semester 2007/2008 and of Prof. Sven Walter and Dr. Vera Hoffmann-Kolss in the Winter Semester 2008/2009, University of Osnabrück, Germany

### Honors and Awards

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2017	Travel Stipend (US\$ 1,000) of the International Neuroethics Society
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### Ad hoc reviewer activities ([Publons](#))

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*British Medical Journal, Alzheimer’s & Dementia, Neuroethics, Bioethica Forum*

Member of the scientific program committee for the 21. Annual Meeting of the [German Network for Evidence-based Medicine](#): “Patient-relevant useful research – How do we get the evidence we need?” February 13.-15, 2020, Unispital Basel, Switzerland.

Member of the abstract review team for the 15th *World Congress of Bioethics*, June 19-21, 2020, Philadelphia, USA (<https://iab2020.org/>)

### Professional Memberships

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Since 2019	German Network for Evidence-Based Medicine e.V.
In 2017	International Neuroethics Society, INS
Since 2016	Working Group Neuroethics, Akademie für Ethik in der Medizin e.V.
Since 2019	Co-Head of the Working Group "Neuroethics", Akademie für Ethik in der Medizin e.V.
Since 2009	Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie e.V.
Since 2009	Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Instituts für Kognitionswissenschaft e.V.

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Signature

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