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Ethical Issues Relating to Capstone

The idea behind constructing a connectome is to understand all the connections in the Human Brain, for example. By starting on a smaller scale and learning then the idea and project can move forward toward mapping the Human Brain. By understanding the connections of the Human Brain it can help bring advances in technology such as Artificial Intelligence. While taking the human element out of certain processes can be convenient it is still a topic where many people stand on both sides of the fence. I believe that depictions of artificial intelligence in movies has helped shape that viewpoint but also removing the “human” element to make decisions outside of logic and not be so “robotic”.

With the introduction of Artificial Intelligence into fields such as automation, then tasks that were previously done by people such as an assembly line or fast food job can be replaced by a robot or machine programmed with AI technology to do those repetitive tasks. This will cause jobs to be replaced. Often these jobs are taken by groups with a lower financial standing and do require much experience or even much education. While mapping the Human brain can lead to advances in medicine and understand diseases and conditions such as mental illnesses and brain disorders, I believe that there is the danger of malicious intent with such knowledge. Understanding how the brain interacts, the neurons and synapses leaves open the ability to manipulate those connections as well. This can be taken advantage of and affect people of all groups.

Most scientific studies are done with the best intentions and like the Human Genome Project, which I have not heard any negative side effects from, I don't believe that this will lead to anything drastically negative. By learning how the Brain works and interacts there is great opportunity to help many with brain disorders such as Alzheimer's, Epilepsy, Parkinson's Disease and mental illnesses such as Depression, Anxiety and Schizophrenia.