

# The Ten Central Tenets of Neurosexology

Annotated Edition · Version 1.0

The ethical, epistemological, methodological, and public constitution of Neurosexology—governing how questions are asked, evidence is interpreted, people are protected, and knowledge is returned.

Governing commitments, not empirical findings.

## Record status

| Canonical version             | Effective                      | Author                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.0                           | August 9, 2026                 | Nicholas Julian Madison |
| Primary record                | Correction pathway             | Review state            |
| neurosexology.org/principles/ | neurosexology.org/corrections/ | Protected public review |

## How to use this edition

The numbered tenets are stable commitments and reference identifiers, not a hierarchy. Each record below preserves the exact canonical title and summary, then names operational expectations, its connection to the Capacity–Pathway Framework, and a derived safeguard. The safeguard is interpretive shorthand—not an additional numbered tenet.

# Ten stable commitments

## 01 Make the body more accessible to the person living in it

Greater access should expand agency and choice. It should never create a new obligation to perform, optimize, explore, disclose, or change.

### In practice

- Explain bodily possibility without promising universality.
- Offer pathways for inquiry without prescribing exploration.
- Preserve a person's right not to know, pursue, disclose, or express a capacity.

### Framework connection

Capacity, accessibility, discovery, and recruitment must remain separate so that possibility does not become obligation.

**There is no required map.**

## 02 Make the terms and language understandable

Science must become understandable to people. Human experience must become legible to science.

### In practice

- Provide public, plain-language, and technical layers.
- Distinguish source language, paraphrase, interpretation, and mechanism.
- Preserve complexity rather than simplifying into distortion.

### Framework connection

The Capacity–Pathway vocabulary exists to make distinctions legible, not to create a private language that only insiders can use.

**Language should increase access—not gatekeep it.**

## 03 People and experience come first

A credible report can begin the inquiry without being expected to complete the explanation.

### In practice

- Begin with what the person reports before forcing an inherited category.
- Permit “I do not know,” “none,” “another answer,” and “this does not fit.”
- Treat the person as more than an event, profile, category, diagnosis, or dataset.

### Framework connection

Experience is indispensable evidence about the lived event; it does not need to prove every underlying mechanism to be taken seriously.

**The person outranks the framework.**

## 04 Integration, not fragmentation

Connect the parts without erasing their differences or mistaking one level of explanation for the whole person.

### In practice

- Use the organism as the unit of analysis.
- Preserve the difference between integration and collapse.
- State which levels a study measures and which remain unobserved.

### Framework connection

The framework separates capacity, pathway, accessibility, discovery, recruitment, configuration, state, experience, expression, conditions, feedback, and pattern so their relationships can be studied without being conflated.

**Separate before connecting.**

## 05 Objective profiles and subjective lived experience belong together

Objective measures record selected aspects of an event. The person reports the lived experience. Neurosexology studies the relationships among them.

### In practice

- Identify exactly what each measure records.
- Preserve first-person report as a distinct evidence layer.
- Make discordance visible rather than treating it as measurement failure by default.

### Framework connection

Experience and expression belong together, but neither substitutes for the other.

**Neither the instrument nor the report is allowed to impersonate the whole event.**

## 06 The category is not the person

Categories can reveal patterns, but they should be the beginning of description—not the end of inquiry.

### In practice

- Use categories as tools for comparison, not total explanations.
- Separate event, behavior, pattern, meaning, and identity.
- Do not use framework terms to overrule a person's self-understanding.

### Framework connection

A recurring pattern can be described without treating it as the person's complete identity or as proof of its origin.

**Pattern ≠ person. Identity ≠ mechanism.**

## 07 A bodily response does not determine the meaning of the event

Bodily response, desire, pleasure, consent, safety, identity, and meaning must remain distinct.

### In practice

- Never infer consent from erection, lubrication, orgasm, pleasure, stillness, compliance, or lack of resistance.
- Distinguish physiological expression from subjective arousal, desire, wanting continuation, and authorization.
- Do not transfer responsibility for another person's actions onto the person whose body responded.

### Framework connection

The same physiological expression can participate in different configurations, states, experiences, and meanings.

**What the body did does not tell us, by itself, what the person wanted.**

## 08 Variation is not automatically dysfunction

Difference alone is not pathology; consent, distress, impairment, risk, context, and personal goals matter.

### In practice

- Do not convert statistical rarity into disorder.
- Investigate conditions before concluding incapacity.
- Preserve clinical pathways when pain, distress, impairment, risk, or a person's own goals warrant care.

### Framework connection

Observed expression under current conditions is not a complete measure of capacity, health, or future accessibility.

**Difference ≠ disorder. Mismatch with a script ≠ bodily failure.**

## 09 Believe the report. Test the explanation.

Reject both reflexive dismissal of unfamiliar experience and reflexive acceptance of an untested mechanism.

### In practice

- Treat the person's report as evidence about what they experienced.
- Test mechanism claims with methods appropriate to the claim.
- Preserve uncertainty when the mechanism remains unknown.

### Framework connection

Experience, expression, profile, interpretation, and mechanism are related but non-equivalent.

**Unknown mechanism ≠ unreal experience. Credible report ≠ proven explanation.**

## 10 Knowledge should be returned to the people whose bodies it describes

Returning knowledge is part of the science, not a communication task added after the science is complete.

### In practice

- Publish accessible explanations alongside scientific records.
- Make methods, limitations, uncertainty, evidence status, and correction history visible.
- Return useful distinctions, not only findings.

### Framework connection

Public explanation and scientific records should remain paired, traceable, versioned, and open to correction.

**Public return is part of the method.**

### OPERATIONAL GOVERNANCE

## From commitment to decision

A tenet must produce at least one design requirement, safeguard, review question, claim boundary, public-return obligation, or visible correction process. If it never changes a decision, it has become decorative.

### Full-lifecycle questions

| Stage                     | Governing question                                                                  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Concept formation         | What is presumed possible, normal, primary, or disordered?                          |
| Question design           | What does the wording direct people to notice, and can it be rejected or corrected? |
| Participation and consent | What disclosure, burden, risk, or expectation is created?                           |

| Stage           | Governing question                                                                 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Data collection | Is only necessary information collected, with control to skip, pause, or withdraw? |
| Analysis        | Are source report, coding, measurement, inference, and mechanism distinct?         |
| Interpretation  | Is variation mistaken for dysfunction or a group pattern for every person?         |
| Publication     | Are claim status, methods, limitations, attribution, and uncertainty visible?      |
| Public return   | What useful knowledge, language, findings, limitations, and agency are returned?   |
| Correction      | Can the public see what changed, why, and which records were affected?             |

## Commitments and evidence

A governing commitment can be evidence-informed without becoming an empirical finding. The tenets govern how claims are made; they do not exempt a claim from needing evidence. Experience, observation, measurement, inference, interpretation, and mechanism remain distinct forms of record.

The tenets do not claim every capacity exists, every explanation attached to a report is correct, every form of evidence has equal weight for every question, bodily response is meaningless, diagnosis is illegitimate, or raw sensitive data must be public.

## Corrigibility and amendment

Minor clarification may improve explanatory copy without changing a commitment, number, or canonical title; the date, wording, reason, and affected pages are recorded. A substantive amendment changes meaning, scope, number, or canonical wording and requires a proposal, rationale, prompting evidence or experience, dependency review, version increment, archive, and public changelog.

A new tenet should be considered only when an enduring obligation is missing, cannot be represented by an existing tenet, and its omission materially harms decisions. Version 1.0 is stable without being beyond correction.

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