

Psychology 607 Creativity

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MEETINGS: Monday 10 to 11:50; Straub 143

OVERVIEW: Creativity is a multifaceted complex phenomenon, including dispositional, intellectual, and environmental components, some of which might be domain-specific and some of which might be more general. Research on this topic varies in whether the focus is on the ideas themselves, the processes that resulted in the generation of the ideas, personality variables that are associated with the inclination or motivation to develop new ideas, or the context that facilitates the generation of new ideas. Some theories include the ability to identify an important or interesting problem, to generate and develop ideas, to judge the ideas, and to persuade others of the utility of the ideas. The possibility that children might be creative is sometimes defined away by restricting the term to important human achievements in art, literature, and science that have been recognized as of value to society. In contrast, other researchers are interested in creativity as a characteristic feature of human cognition and investigate the role of creativity in everyday thinking, opening the door for the possibility of creativity in children's behavior. In this seminar we will review these different perspectives, discuss measurement issues, and consider how the study of creativity might be important for understanding a range of topics in cognitive, social and clinical psychology.

READINGS: The readings will be available on Blackboard. The assignments are likely to be adjusted somewhat as we go along.

GRADES: Grades will be based on class attendance, participation in discussion, a five-page paper proposing a study for investigating an issue related to the study of creativity and a presentation of your research idea to the class. The papers are due on December 6.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

September 27 Organizational meeting

Hennessey, B. A. & Amabile, T. M. (2010). Creativity. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 61, 569-98.

October 4 General issues

- Damasio, A. R. (2001). Some notes on brain, imagination and creativity. In K. H. Pfenniger & V. R. Shubik (Eds.) *The origins of creativity*, pp. 59-68. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hocevar, D., & Bachelor, P. (1989). A taxonomy and critique of measurements used in the study of creativity. In J. A. Glover, R.R. Ronning, & C.R. Reynolds (Eds.) *Handbook of Creativity* pp. 52-72. New York: Plenum Press.
- Ivcevic, Z. (2009). Creativity map: Toward the next generation of theories of creativity. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 3, 17-21.

October 11 Measurement of creativity

- Amabile, T. M. (1982). Social psychology of creativity: A consensual assessment technique. *Personality Processes and Individual differences*, 997-1013.
- Silvia, P. J., Winterstein, B. P., Willse, J. T., Barona, C. M., Cram, J. T., Hess, K. I., Martinez, J. L., Richard, C. A. (2008). Assessing creativity with divergent thinking tasks: Exploring the reliability and validity of new subjective scoring methods. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 2, 68-85.
- Commentaries on Silvia et al. (2008). *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 2, 86-108.

October 18 Domains of creativity

- Kim, K. H. (2006). Is creativity unidimensional or multidimensional? Analyses of the Torrance Tests of creative thinking. *Creativity Research Journal*, 18, 251-259.
- Plucker, J. A., & Beghetto, R. A. (2004). Why creativity is domain general, why it looks domain specific, and why the distinction does not matter. In R. Sternberg, E. L. Grigorenko, J. L. Singer (Eds.) *Creativity: From potential to realization*, pp. 153-168. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- Simonton, D. K. (2007). Creativity: Specialized expertise or general cognitive processes? In M. J. Roberts (Ed.) *Integrating the mind*, pp. 351-367. New York: Psychology Press.

October 25 Creative process

- Bowden. E. M. (1997). The effect of reportable and unreportable hints on anagram solution and the Aha! Experience, *Consciousness and Cognition*, 6, 545-573.
- Cal, D. J., Mednick, S. A., Harrison, E. M., Kanady, J. C., Mednick, S. C. (2009). REM, not incubation primes associative networks. 1073.
- Segal, E. (2004). Incubation in insight problem solving. *Creativity Research Journal*, 16, 141-148.

Vartanian, O. (2009). Variable attention facilitates creative problem solving. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 3, 57-59.

November 1 The creative brain

- Andreasson, N. C. (1987). Creativity and mental illness: Prevalence rates in writers and their first-degree relatives. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 144, 1288-1292.
- Bristol, A. S., & Viskontas, V. (2006). Dynamic processes within associative memory stores: Piecing together the neural basis of creative cognition. In J. C. Kaufman & J. Baer (Eds.), *Creativity and reason in cognitive development*, p. 60-80. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Dietrich, A. (2004). The cognitive neuroscience of creativity, *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 11, 1011-1026.
- Kounios, J., Frymiare, J.L., Bowden, E. M., Fleck, J. I., Subramaniam, K. et al. (2006). The prepared mind: neural activity prior to problem presentation predicts subsequent solution by sudden insight. *Psychological Science*, 17, 882-90.
- Schlesinger, J. (2009). Creative mythconceptions: A closer look at the evidence for the “Mad Genius” hypothesis. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 3, 62-72.

November 8 Development of creativity

- Mouchiroud, C., & Lubart, T. (2002). Social creativity: A cross-sectional study of 6- to 11 –year-old children. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 26, 60-69.
- Runco, M. A. (2007). Developmental trends and influences on creativity. In *Creativity* pp. 39-70. San Diego CA: Elsevier Academic Press.
- Sawyer, R. K., John-Steiner, V., Moran, S., Sternberg, R. J., Feldman, D. H., Nakamura, J., & Csikszentmihalyi, M. (2003). Key issues in creativity and development. In K. Sawyer (Ed.), *Creativity and Development* pp. 217-242. New York: Oxford University press.
- Torrance, P.E. (2000). Preschool creativity. *Psychoeducational assessment of preschool children*. Lawrence Erlbaum.

November 15 **Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students

November 22 **Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students

November 29 **Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students

December 6

Papers due

Other Readings

- Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1996). *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Gutbezahl, J. & Averill, J. R. (1996). Individual differences in emotional creativity as manifested in words and pictures. *Creativity Research Journal*, 9, 327-337.
- Fasko, D. (1999). Associative Theory. In *Encyclopedia of Creativity*, Vol 1, p. 135-139. Academic Press.
- Helson, R., & Srivastava, S. (2002). Creative and wise people: Similarities, differences, and how they develop. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 1430-40.
- Ludwig, A. M. (1998). Method and madness in the arts and sciences. *Creativity Research Journal*, 11, 93-101.
- Mouchiroud, C., & Bemoussi, A. (2008). An empirical study of the construct validity of social creativity. *Learning and Individual Differences*.
- Reiter-Palmon, R., Illies, M. Y., Cross, L. K., Buboltz, C. & Nimps, T. (2009). Creativity and domain specificity: The effect of task type on multiple indexes of creative problem solving. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 3, 73-80.
- Silvia, P. J., Kimbrel, N. A. (2010). A dimensional analysis of creativity and mental illness: Do anxiety and depression predict creative cognition, creative accomplishments, and creative self-concepts? *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 4, 2-10.
- Smith, G. J. W. (2006). How should creativity be defined? *Creativity Research Journal*, 17, 293-295.
- Vandervert, L, R. Schimf, P. H., & Liu, H. (2007). How working memory and the cerebellum collaborate to produce creativity and innovation. *Creativity Research Journal*, 19, 1-18.
- Ward, T.m B., & Sonneborn, M. S. (2009). Creative expression in virtual worlds: Imitation, imagination, and individualized collaboration. . *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 4, 211-221.
- Zha, P. , Walczyk, J. J., Griffith-Ross, Tobacyk, J. J., & Walczyk, D. F. The impact of culture and individualism-collectivism on the creative potential and achievement of American and Chinese adults, *Creativity Research Journal*, 18, 355-366.