CREATIVITY, GENIUS

And Their Place within a Positive Psychology
Outline

- Definitions of the Two Phenomena
- Manifestations of the Phenomena
  - Individual
  - Sociocultural
- Their Placement within Movement
Definitions of Phenomena

- Creativity: Two Requirements
  - Originality
  - Adaptiveness

- Genius: Three Conceptions
  - Distinctiveness
  - Impact
  - Intellect
Individual Level

- Measurement Strategies
  - Productivity
  - Eminence
  - Intelligence
  - Cognitive Style
  - Personality
  - Biography
Productivity

- Concept: Output
- Illustrations
  - Quetelet
  - Lehman
  - Dennis
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
Eminence

- Concept: Reputation
- Illustrations
  - Galton
  - J. M. Cattell
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
Intelligence

- Concept: IQ
- Illustrations
  - Binet
  - Terman
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
    - Sternberg
    - Gardner
Cognitive Style

- Concept: Imagination
- Illustrations
  - Guilford
  - Mednick
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
Personality

- Concept: Disposition
- Illustrations
  - Cox
  - Roe
  - R. B. Cattell
  - Eysenck
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
Biography

- Concept: Origins
- Illustrations
  - Galton
  - Ellis
  - J. M. Cattell
- Evaluation
  - Pros
  - Cons
Central Issues

- Individual Differences
  - Cross-Sectional Distribution
  - Cross-Sectional Continuity

- Longitudinal Changes
  - Developmental Antecedents
  - Career Trajectories
Central Issues (Continued)

- Nature versus Nurture
  - Talent Development
  - Expertise Acquisition

- Mad-Genius Controversy
  - Theoretical Traditions
    - Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis
    - Gestalt and Humanistic Schools
  - Empirical Integration
Sociocultural Level

- Two Types of Analytical Strategies
- Cross-Cultural Analyses
  - Concept: Ortgeist
  - Illustrations
    - Alphonse de Candolle
    - Human Area Relations Files
  - Evaluation
    - Pros
    - Cons
Sociocultural Level

- Transhistorical Analyses
  - Concept: Zeitgeist
  - Illustrations
    - Pitirim Sorokin: *Social and Cultural Dynamics*
    - Alfred Kroeber: *Configurations of Culture Growth*
    - Derek Price: *Big Science, Little Science*
    - David McClelland: *The Achieving Society*
  - Evaluation
Their Placement with Movement

- Importance and Relevance
- Yet Peripheral Status
- Some Possible Explanations
- Potential Solutions
Importance and Relevance

- Creativity as
  - A Symptom of Human Health
  - A Symptom of Cultural Vitality

- Genius as
  - The Peak of Human Performance
  - The Acme of Golden Ages
Yet Peripheral Status

- Topic seldom listed among the core areas of research in the field
- Issue seldom represented in conferences on positive psychology
- Research seldom if ever honored with relevant awards or recognition
- Topic attracts relatively few investigators
Some Possible Explanations

- Divine Origins
  - Creativity
  - Genius
- Mad (Creative) Genius
- Craft Traditions
  - Guilds and Apprentices
  - Acquired Expertise
Potential Solutions

- Demystify the psychological and sociological processes underlying the two phenomena
- Stress continuity between creative genius and everyday forms of creativity, including in both children and older adults
- Link creativity and genius with more mainstream issues in positive psychology