

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