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The Creative State of Mind

Wrońska, Marta

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Propositions belonging to the PhD thesis

The Creative State of Mind

Penetrating Creativity in the Here and Now

By Marta K. Wronska

1. The creative state of mind is a temporary (fleeting) property of the mind that is (1) activated by performing creative activities or that (2) prepares the mind for these activities (Chapter 1).
2. Being in a creative state of mind temporarily broadens the field of visual attention (Chapter 2).
3. People who prefer order, structure, and clear answers (in other words, who have a high Need for Closure) feel less competent and more negative when engaging in open-ended creative thinking than when looking for one specific answer (Chapter 3).
4. Priming effects on creativity can be explained by four broad mechanisms: unconstrained thought, abstraction, uniqueness, open-mindedness (Chapter 4).
5. The four priming mechanisms can be used as guidelines to design future studies on the effects of priming on creativity, which will increase the coherence of this literature (Chapter 4).
6. Priming as a method has a positive, significant, small to medium effect on creativity, although the large heterogeneity of priming methodology comes with a large heterogeneity of effect sizes (Chapter 4).
7. “Creativity is an attempt to resolve a conflict generated by unexpressed biological impulses, such that unfulfilled desires are the driving force of the imagination, and they fuel our dreams and daydreams.” (Sigmund Freud)
8. “In time you will abandon your trousers – not now, I hope.” (Stephen Fry)
9. “Life could be horrible in the wrong trouser of time.” (Terry Pratchett)
10. “I’m not a lady. I’m a witch.” (Terry Pratchett)