

# Imagination

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**IMAGINATION**





# What is Imagination



- Imagination is relevant to knowledge in that it is the source of creative ideas. A great deal of intellectual progress is the result not of discovering new things but of new ways of looking at existing things.
- When imagination is not tested against reality, there is a danger that we end up replacing public facts with private fantasies.
- Imagination is the ability to form a representation of something which is not present to the senses. The word Imagination can be used to encompass 'both mental images and the entertaining of possibilities'
- In this presentation, we will explore the three types of imagination; **fantasy**, **realistic imagination**, and **creativity**

Here's a video



# ★ Fantasy ★

- Fantasy is an escapist form of imagination that is only distantly connected with the real world.
- Common type of fantasy is “**The Dream of Effortless Achievement**”
  - The dream of effortless achievement is a fantasy where one thinks about ends without the steps taken
- Can lead one to escapism and refusal to engage with reality
- Commonly used by authors, advertisers, inventors, etc..





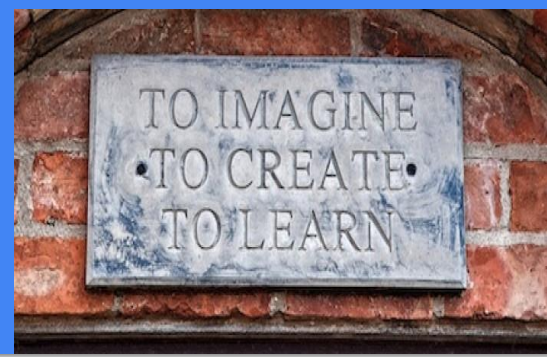
# Creativity



- Imagination takes what we have seen , felt , what we have thought and wondered about ,recombines them in new ways
- Difference between creative imagination and “run off the mill “ imagination is the originality of the ideas.
- Creative idea should be original as it should be something noone has thought of
- Originality and value(only positive and benifits society) of ideas helps ideas to be percived as creative For Example: intellectual knowledge
- Imagined possibilities and the barrier on the factual truths could have been a possible factor of how some of history has some information that is too good to be true ( it could have been mixed with imagination )



# Realistic Imagination



- Realistic Imagination is imagination which is informed and guided by relevant facts.
- Most productive uses of imagination are realistic in the sense that they are constrained by reality.
- E.g. Alexander Graham Bell Consider inventions: when Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) invented the telephone, he didn't simply fantasise about talking to distant people; rather his imagination was constrained by what was practically possible

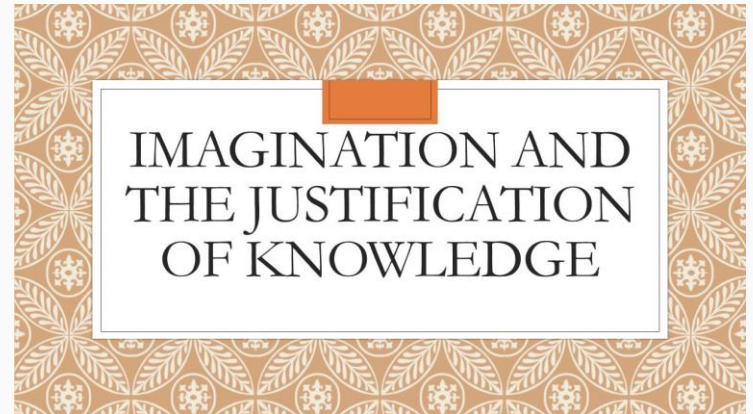
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# Imagination its relationship with the justification of Knowledge

- It is arguable that imagination has a relation with the justification of knowledge
  - The justification of knowledge is learning how we came to know what we know
- There are three ways to see how imagination can lead to knowledge
  - **As a surrogate for experience**
  - **As a support for judgement**
  - **As a guide to possibility**



# ★ Imagination As A Surrogate For Experience ★

- Imagination can intensify and extend our experiences.







# Imagination as a guide to possibility



- One acquires knowledge when they find out what is possible and not possible.
- Physiology , Math and Logic are subjects that are trying to shape out the limits of possibility
- 2 types of possibilities ; 1.Empirical possibility 2.Logical possibility;
  - Imagination can be a guide to possibility but depends on who does the imagining ***“If you can't imagine something then it is impossible, and if you can imagine something then it's possible.”***

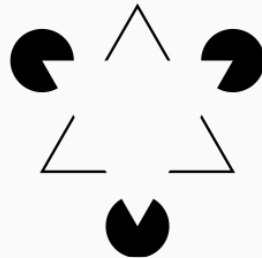
# ★ Imagination as a support for judgement ★

- Imagination has a great importance to one's judgement
  - Judgement usually derives from comparing the actual to the possible
- Is used daily in planning out the choices we take
- Ex: The choices that you make are made by the thought of what is going to happen



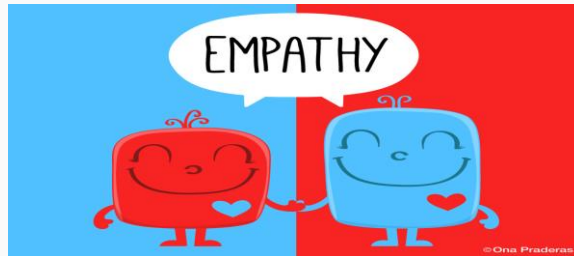
# ★ Gestalt Psychology ★

- The group of psychology stating that in trying to make sense of experience we naturally tend to see things as a whole rather than in parts.
- Imagination is used in the Gestalt psychology because imagination makes one think outside the box.
- It plans out an expectation for us giving us a fabric of perception .



# ★ Empathy's relationship to Knowledge ★

- Empathy is a form of imagination in that we must imagine the perspective of a person situation in order to understand what they are going through
- Since we have no direct knowledge of a person's inner lives we can imagine what their lives are like through Imagination
- Egocentric Bias
  - The tendency to look at everything from one point of view and think that only one thing is true.



# ★ The Importance of Empathy ★

- Curse of knowledge- A knowledgeable persons inability to understand a mentality of a less knowledgeable person.
- Empathy improves self-knowledge
- For example , the ability to understand how others perceive us is important.
  - Introspection



# ★ Empathetic Accuracy ★

- Our ability to empathise is determined by our personalities.
- There are varying degrees of empathy.
- People who have a difficult time with empathising are those with autism.
- In some rare cases, people who suffer from extreme empathy making them empathise so deeply that they become overwhelmed by them.
- The average amount of empathy is in between these two called the empathy quotient.



# ★ Empathy and Ethics ★

- Moral Motivation

- Using the misfortune of others to benefit ourselves
- Schadenfreude: Taking pleasure in other's other's misfortune

- Moral Judgement

- Before judging someone we should imagine life in their shoes Follow the golden rule, treat others how you'd like to be treated



# ★ Other obstacles of Empathy ★

- Time Pressure
- Power
- Money
- Social Groups
- Beliefs



# ★ The Mystery of Creativity ★

- Creativity is a weird, mysterious source of knowledge
- Many people doubt that there is such a theory for creativity because creativity is surprising and unpredictable and theories explain subjects
- Three questions can be asked for creativity
  - How can creativity be explained?
  - Is there such a thing as a genius?
  - How to assess creativity?





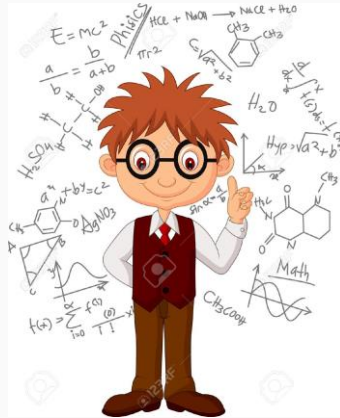
# Explaining Creativity



- Transformational Creativity
  - An idea that has never been thought of before
- Combination Theory
  - Creativity consists in taking existing ideas and changing them with a similar but distinct combination
- Example
  - Einstein's Theory of Relativity (Transformational)
  - Pegasus(Combination Theory)

# ★ The Myth of Genius ★

- Although a great deal of transformational energy signifies one's genius, hard work is also needed.
- It is estimated that one would have to work in an area 10 years to be considered a genius.



# ★ Fantasy and Distortion ★

- Imagination can degenerate in fantasy and impede rather than contribute to knowledge
- Undisciplined imagination can turn into
  - Seductive Images
  - Illusionary Pattern
  - Imaginary Fears





# ★ Illusionary Pattern ★

- Although imagination is necessary in everyday perception, people tend to project their fantasies on objects around us and think that there is a pattern in it
- People that come up with outrageous ideas
- Ex. Bush did 9/11





# Imaginary Fears



- Our view of current social and political events can be distorted by bias and fantasy
- If our imagined futures are not spiralled into fantasies with no connection to reality. Our future must be based off of evidence and logic.
- Ex: Terrorism, WW3, etc..



# Imagination in our School Lives



- English
  - Imagination is needed to make points for an essay
- History
  - In certain situations you must answer questions which make you imagine life in an old time.
- Science
  - Imagining outcomes, predictions of what will happen
- Art
  - Sculpting, Painting, Literature etc..

# ★ Seductive Images ★

- Images, descriptions, or scenes that seem interesting to an individual which they change to their favor
- The world is filled with seductive images
- The presentation of ourselves is a form of seductive imagery



## *Limitations in this strand of knowledge*

- Imagination is also distrusted since it is highly subjective. Thinking about the way people have viewed imagination in the past can really show you know how to reflect on the Ways of Knowing in your work.
- In other words, your imagination is limited to what you understand and know. If you have never "seen" a lighthouse and don't know what a lighthouse is for, you'd be incapable of imagining one.



# Discussion Questions

- To what extent is our imagination considered realistic?/
- How can we define something as realistic?



# In Conclusion

