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Creativity: A Philosophical Exploration



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Date

2010

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Thesis Discipline

Philosophy

Degree Grantor

University of Canterbury

Degree Level

Doctoral

Degree Name

This dissertation explores new frontiers of creativity. Currently, the concept of creativity is limited, restricting us to a narrow view of the phenomenon. To remedy this, I investigate new cases of behaviour, entities and systems. To do so, I construct a definition of creativity that can be applied outside the domain of human activity, and examine a broad array of examples that are entirely new to studies of creativity. In doing so, limitations owing to our ability to recognize creativity are made apparent. I argue that a new way of approaching creativity is required to overcome these limitations, and propose a diachronic definition of creativity based on a general systems law. Using the diachronic definition of creative behaviour, I discover a number of creative systems at different organizational scales, including prion adaptation and biogenesis. I argue that these newfound examples of creativity and the definition that explores them, have significant implications for how we understand creativity.

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