Creativity in Asia: A Meta-perspective

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Outline

- A meta-aspect of creativity
- Exploring your own creativity
- Asian creativity research and practice: Some reflective points
Creativity (1950–2009)

- 创意，创新，创造力，Daya Kreativiti, Kreativitaet
# Creativity (1950, 2009)

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<td>psychological publication</td>
<td>&lt;0.2% (Psychological Abstracts −121,000, 23 yrs: 186 indexed)</td>
<td>10,000 papers (1998–2007, PsycINFO)</td>
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**First few lines**

I discuss the subject of creativity with considerable hesitation, for it represents an area in which psychologists, generally ... have feared to tread.

... creativity research has continued at a solid pace ... across such diverse areas of psychology as cognitive, developmental, clinical, social ... and across such other fields as economics, education and the arts.
Three Valid Questions:

- What is creativity?
- Where is creativity?
- How is creativity cultivated?

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<td>Creativity Research Questions</td>
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### Multiplicity in Creativity

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<td><strong>What is?</strong></td>
<td>Greatness, eminence, legend</td>
<td>Everyday creativity (e.g., an East–West salad)</td>
<td>Personal creativity (e.g., transformative learning)</td>
<td>Professional creativity (e.g., designing the KL Twin Tower)</td>
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<td><strong>Who can be?</strong></td>
<td>Those display mini–c, Prof–C</td>
<td>Those display mini–c</td>
<td>Every person</td>
<td>Those display mini–c, little–c</td>
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<td><strong>How to cultivate?</strong></td>
<td>Domain–specific</td>
<td>Domain–specific &amp; general (tinkering)</td>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>Informal apprenticeship (little–c), formal apprenticeship (mini–c)</td>
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<td><strong>Example(s) of researchers</strong></td>
<td>Simonton, Ziegler &amp; Wialle</td>
<td>Shi, Chu &amp; Zhang</td>
<td>Vygotsky, Roger, Fredrickson, Tan</td>
<td>Ericsson</td>
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The World
Asia
Greatness
Mahatma Mohandas K Gandhi

- 2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948
- 1947 Independence of India: peaceful resistance and non-violence
- March: 1930: Riled by the tax on salt – Salt March covering 388 km, from Ahmedabad to Dandi.
- Harjjan Movement in 1933: 21 day fasting – Improving the lives of the unprivileged caste Indians.
Mother Teresa

- 26 August 1910 – 5 September 1997
- 1950: Founded the Missionaries of Charity for the Destitute in Slums (Kolkata, India, with a 13-member team)
- 1952: First Home for the Dying for the Poor to pass on with Dignity according to their religions
- 1979: Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in combating poverty
Loss of ability and high functioning
Born on October 5, 1981
Diagnosed with Leber’s Congenital Amourosis, an eye disorder which deprived him the severe loss of vision at birth
After months of intensive competition in Project Superstar, he was crowned the champion
Theresa Goh Rui Si

- Born on 16 February 1987
- Developed congenital spina bifida at birth, she could not use her legs extensively and relies on a wheelchair. She is also partially hearing-impaired
- Began swimming at the age of 5 and competed at the National Swimming Championships at the age of 12. She has achieved over 20 gold medals to date
- As a national swimmer, she broke the world record in the 50 m breaststroke and was named Sportsgirl of the Year in 2002 and in 2003
- Received the Youth Inspiration Award in 2008 that recognized young people who overcame difficulties and contributed to the community
- Her experiences have allowed her to interact with other world-class swimmers from different countries and cultures.
- This provided her opportunities to befriend other youths, able-bodied and disabled, with ease
Extraordinary People
Martial Arts Exponents

Saumik Bera
- Best known yoga master in Singapore
- Honoured as the only Asian Yoga Master to have performed and won in South America in 2007

Ali Bahçetepe
- Tae Kwon Do World Champion
- Holds Guinness World Record for most concrete blocks broken in a minute

Lily Lau
- Became 8th Generation Eagle Claw Kung Fu Grandmaster at nineteen
- First and only female Kung Fu Master teaching the Kung Fu system
Professor Chen Ning Yang

- Born September 22, 1922
- Demonstrated great expertise in two fields: statistical mechanics and symmetry principles
- Was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Academia Sinica
- Honoured with the Albert Einstein Commemorative Award and named as one of the outstanding young men of 1957 by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Received the 1957 Nobel prize in physics for work on parity non-conservation of weak interaction, together with Tsung-dao Lee
- Was awarded an honorary doctorate of the Princeton University, N.J. In 1958
- Attained the Rumford Prize in 1980 and received the Liberty Award and the National Medal of Science in 1986.
Young Achievers
2004: Honorable M. Eugene Merchant Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer in the area of life-cycle engineering

June 2009: Invented and patented the visual interface system

2009: Emerging Leaders Award in Academia for demonstrating leadership in academia

2009: Achieved groundbreaking research in manufacturing engineering sector by the US Society for Women Engineers
Leonard Ang

- Succeeds as an ophthalmologist from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
- Researched in ocular stem cell biology, the clinical application of stem cells using ex vivo expansion techniques, and bioengineering eye tissues for clinical transplantation
- 2005: Received the Young Scientist Award in 2005 organised by the Singapore National Academy of Science (SNAS) and supported by A*STAR for showing great potential to be world-class researchers
Xiong Ying

- Graduated as a western medical doctor and served as a gynaecologist for 6 years in the Wuhan San Jiu Zhong Yuan Hospital before coming to Singapore
- Interned with 2 famous doctors – Professor Xia Gui Cheng (TCM Gynaecology) and Dr Yin Ming (TCM Pediatrics) and pursued her interests in Gynaecology and Paediatrics
- Has been specialising in acupuncture and acupressure for paediatrics by applying Chinese medicine for gynaecological conditions
- Is a fully registered TCM Physician with the Singapore TCM Practitioners Board under the Ministry of Health which oversees the professional conduct of practitioners keeping abreast of medical advancements
Everyday Creativity
Cuisine and Fashion
Peranakan Dishes

- A mix of Chinese – Malay culinary cultures
- Dishes are brightly flavoured with aromatic herbs, exotic spices, and infused with sweet fragrances
- Famous nonyan dishes include the bur-bur cha-cha, lobster laksa
Kebayas are worn by the Peranakan females, known as the nonyas.

Kebayas are tailored with Chinese influences such as the Mandarin collar.

The flamboyant blouse is paired with a matching sarong that indicates the influence of the Malay traditions.
French – Asian Cuisine

- A blend of French cooking style infused with Asian flavours
- Classic dishes consist of the Steamed Roasted Chicken Breast with Hickory Salt, and Smoked Foie Gras.
Western clothing like dresses are designed with an Indian touch.

These attires are styled using Indian prints and patterns.

The use of vibrant, bold colours in the Indian culture together with the right choice of fabric is also well captured by Western-Indian fusion fashion designers.
Development: Asian Children
Academic Achievements

- In an UNICEF study on 24 educational systems, Asian nations were among the top 3 ranks while America was positioned 18 (Wu, 2005)

- Linked back to the “Confucian heritage” of scholar learning that influence every Asian culture’s own achievement-relevant beliefs, goals, and values, paving the way to greater academic performance (Grant & Dweck, 2001)

- Academic differences possibly due to some elements of learning process, like learning constructs and styles that could be linked to socio-cultural and environmental factors (Ramburuth & McCormick, 2001)
Exploring your own creativity

My creativity:

- Everyday life
- Professional life
- Developmental/personal
- Greatness
CREATIVITY

Press
(Environment)

Person

Product

Process

1. Big C
2. Pro-C
3. Little C
4. Mini C
Reflective Points

Who is he?

What has he achieved
Reflective Points

Whose product?
Reflective Points

- Major theme of the movie is that romantic relationships give life meaning and are necessities of life (such as eating and drinking).
- The film features numerous scenes displaying the technique and artistry of gourmet Chinese cooking.
- Since the family members have difficulty expressing their love for one another, the intricate preparation of banquet quality dishes for their Sunday dinners serves as a surrogate for the spoken expression of their familial feelings.
- Another theme is the burden of aging. Chef Chu is depicted as having lost his "one true love" (his wife), losing another (his ability to taste) and about to lose all three daughters to marriage, not to mention the usual spectre of old age.
Reflective Points

Who is he?

What did his mother do?
Mencius' mother, three moves) refers to the legend that Mencius' mother moved their house three times—from beside a cemetery to beside a marketplace, to finally beside a school—before finding a location that she felt was suitable for his upbringing.
"The Life of Mencius" pictures Mencius walking with the King of Teng, discussing his philosophy that all men have innate benevolence.

Mencius (385 – 303/302 BCE)
Thank you for inviting us!

Invitation
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