

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Creativity and Imagination

edited by

Anna Abraham

*University of Georgia, USA*

## SLOW WONDER

*Letters on Imagination  
and Education*

Peter O'Connor

*University of Auckland*

Claudia Rozas Gómez

*University of Auckland*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-12439-3 — Slow Wonder: Letters on Imagination and Education  
Peter O'Connor, Claudia Rozas Gómez  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009124393](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009124393)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009128292

© Peter O'Connor and Claudia Rozas Gómez 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-009-12439-3 Paperback  
ISSN 2752-3950 (online)  
ISSN 2752-3942 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Slow Wonder

### Letters on Imagination and Education

Elements in Creativity and Imagination

DOI: 10.1017/9781009128292  
First published online: September 2022

Peter O'Connor  
*University of Auckland*

Claudia Rozas Gómez  
*University of Auckland*

**Author for correspondence:** Peter O'Connor, p.oconnor@auckland.ac.nz

**Abstract:** Slow wonder bears witness to the possibilities of the imagination. In a series of letters, the authors playfully imagine alternatives to current orthodoxies that privilege technocratic approaches to education and have strangled discussion about what it might mean to make education good and right, or even beautiful. The authors position the imagination as a powerful site of resistance within education and academic life. They unpack their philosophical positionings through vignettes of their teaching practice, poetry written as reflective musings and discursive theoretical pieces, including letters they have written to others. They attempt to marry the poetic and the academic, the rational and the affective, to model a slow approach to wondering about the joy, beauty and possibilities of life. In this spirit, they contemplate new ways to think and live in education.

**Keywords:** imagination, education, wonder, beauty, arts

© Peter O'Connor and Claudia Rozas Gómez 2022

ISBNs: 9781009124393 (PB), 9781009128292 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2752-3950 (online), 2752-3942 (print)

## Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Nailed to the Door	2
3 Slow Wonder	13
4 The Last Supper	38