

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Mind

edited by

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IMAGINATION AND CREATIVE THINKING

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Imagination and Creative Thinking

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Abstract: This Element explores the nature of both imagination and creative thinking in an effort to understand the relation between them and also to understand their role in the vast array of activities in which they are typically implicated, from art, music, and literature to technology, medicine, and science. Focusing on the contemporary philosophical literature, it takes up several interrelated questions: What is imagination, and how does it fit into the cognitive architecture of the mind? What is creativity? Is imagination required for creativity? Is creativity required for imagination? Is a person simply born either imaginative or not (and likewise, either creative or not), or are imagination and creativity skills that can be cultivated? And finally, are imagination and creativity uniquely human capacities, or can they be had by nonbiological entities such as AI systems?

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/kind_abstract

Keywords: imagination, creativity, discovery, genius, creative machines

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 What Is Imagination?	1
3 What Is Creativity?	18
4 How Are Imagination and Creativity Related?	32
5 A Case Study: Imagination and Creativity in Machines	46
6 Conclusion	56
References	58