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Boundaries of Creativity: Thick or Thin Organization?

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Abstract

Semantic organization of knowledge has a long history in theories of creativity. Flexibility of thinking and distant connections are indispensable elements of a creative network. Simultaneously, convergence of thoughts and evaluation of ideas are essential at many stages of the creative process. The current study evaluates these complementary aspects through the lens of an exploratory concept known as mental boundaries. Correlation analyses are used to compare flexible and rigid tendencies of organizing the world, the concepts of intellect, schizotypy, perfectionism, divergent thinking and self-perceived creativity. Results ($n = 316$) reveal an interesting contrasting pattern where divergent thinking is significantly related to flexible internal and external organizations, whereas self-perceived creativity is significantly related to rigid external and non-significantly related to rigid internal organizations. The present findings have implications for the measurement of creativity and the identification of factors that facilitate the creative process.