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Assigning Value to Intuitive Dimensions in Creativity

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Assigning Value to Intuitive Dimensions in Creativity

An Abstract of a Project in Creative Studies

by

Susan D. Coburn

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements

for the Degree of

Master of Science

December 2010

Buffalo State College

State University of New York

Creative Studies Department

ABSTRACT OF PROJECT

Assigning Value to Intuitive Dimensions in Creativity

The abilities described by people as intuitive processes include anything from having an unexplained feeling surrounding an event, or having met with a psychic experience, the latter occurring mostly without a catalyst or deliberate engagement. This paper briefly explores the use of these intuitive qualities within the subject of creativity, a thinking skill enhanced by using all available resources. A brief questionnaire was administered to fifteen colleagues regarding information or feelings gained from intuition, dreams, unexplained voice contact or sensations, visual events, and other self-described developments that could be classified as intuitive phenomena. The results are posted in Appendix C. Studies searching for sixth sense have been conducted at Stanford University in California, and The Rhine Research Institute at Duke University; intuitive work has been researched by Cynthia Burnett at The International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State College, New York and begun early on by Jean Houston. This paper is intended to put forward the idea of using the intuitive sixth sense as a tool, in spite of its subjective, qualitative characteristics.

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Creative Studies Department

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Dedication

For Dorothy Mae and Brian.

Nancy, too.

Acknowledgements

To begin a project, you need a foundation. Sincere thanks goes to the faculty at the International Center for Creative Studies at Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York. Your kindness and professionalism are the stone for many beginnings.

To produce a structure of substance, you need scaffolding. Family and friends compose the framework without whom I cannot stand alone.

To illuminate the subject, create windows. This is for all those who took the time to participate; you are my glaziers.

To bring a project together, you slate the roof. Thank you, wise J. Michael Fox, your measurement, determination and guidance are based in good clay.

Now here is a part of where I live. Come and see.

Purpose and Description of Project:

Paranormal mental abilities are an important piece of our sixth sense known as intuition, which arrives to consciousness without evidence of rational thought as a swift inner apprehension, often used as part of decision making. We are at the edge of discovery, leaning into a rabbit hole filled with self-deception as well as honest experts, and must encourage the traditional patterns of thought towards new areas of academic discourse. This paper intends to provide current findings of the major research programs and trends, to examine some newer developments in inquiry, and to provide a resource for those interested in intuitive and paranormal research by identifying trends, issues, and challenges for the future of this important area of human growth.

To study intuition's paranormal categories as a creative value gives definition to an abstract concept, one that is a part of creativity, which in itself is not clearly defined (Isaksen, 1987). Intuition has been universally reported in every culture of the world's history, everyone has it, even though there exists an overlying impression that intuition is a mythological phenomenon when in reality, it is natural and necessary to our success and innovation (Potter, 2000). The study of intuition also helps to further examine human potential in the application and development of knowledge. Finding how to measure characteristics of psi would determine if there are levels of intuition, how to access intuition, and if there were specialized talents per individual.

Intuition, Where Does It Belong?

Largely a product of the preconscious, intuition runs on all the layers of brain we retain from earlier development (Nadel, Haimes, & Stempson, 2006). This brief study concerns itself with the exploration of intuition, extra-sensory perception, and other preconscious states of mind as innovative tools capable of being useful in creative thinking. The term preconscious is used as the source of intuition, for the results are less of a conscious thought process than a sensation, a feeling delivering an answer. Let me be clear in stating that there has been no measured source of sixth sense, only that it is supposedly a function of the brain. A stronger possibility is that intuition originates elsewhere, such as outside the corporal body, in a form sensitive to electro-magnetic phenomena or another medium yet undetected.

I will not offer the pseudo-mysticism often associated with intuitive thinking, for it devalues whatever wavering validity is academically accorded into the topic toward becoming a recreational pastime or religion. There is a fine line that is difficult to discern in many reports by proponents, skewing reliability and other means of determining solid occurrence. Intuitive thinking in its finest form might correctly be placed in the realm of the paranormal as a manner of knowing without conscious reasoning. Reaching into the preconscious of the mind is a learning tool for exploring direction and awareness, and for discovering ways of absolutely natural thinking not apparent to senses that are only attuned to tangible surfaces or logical rationale. In this context, if positive affect leads to

the emergence of viable patterns, it can be expected to induce intuitive behavior and creative problem-solving (Eubanks, Murphy, & Mumford, 2010).

Experimenters do indeed push the boundaries of science and accepted theory, since science as a process is not stagnant or frozen in time; the confidence of theory is that it evolves from many voices. Theory that challenges paradigms is safer to expound these modern days, for people are no longer executed for supposing boundary-stretching theory as the earth revolving around the sun.

Creative Thinking Initiates Ideas

Creativity declares open mindedness as a component of progressive thought, and places traditional thinking to the side while examining new ideas. All participants are invited to join in the conversation, for whatever is put forth may connect to another's creative flow, acting then as a conduit that may joggle another participant's thought process. I offer this as my creative work, perhaps to contribute to other thought processes not voiced, to state that it is acceptable to explore this less than exact part of the human experience. Questioning is necessary to provide boundaries and keep research honest, yet to say that intuition or other paranormal mental abilities do not exist flies in the face of a preponderance of occurrences, experienced since before Hamlet's ghost.

Science, as a continuous thread of discovery, is based primarily on what we observe with our five human senses with little if any coming from other sources. Theories are retested in the certainty of being uncertain, with the outcome that scientific finding of the next several hundred years may view today's standards as notions built on fanciful indulgence. We have the tools that we have, nothing more than what has been discovered

in our short, modern history, leading to boundaries of acceptance founded on human limitation, which of course, opens the gate of fallible judgment. No one has yet determined the purpose of being, yet we are diligent in scraping away the stratifications of life, in search of exposing truths that have always been there, waiting for illumination by methods of discourse or measurable results from test tubes.

Identifying Intuition

Where does intuition start from, and is it considered a genetic talent or a trainable asset? Simonton (1980) argued that the basis for intuition might arise from unconscious associational mechanisms. Within this view, stimuli activate broader associational networks tied to salient, affective, events (Estes, 1991). Activation of these networks may, in turn, give rise to the emergence of unconscious patterns that provide a basis for intuition. Accordingly, one would expect that strategies promoting exploration and elaboration of these networks would contribute to the application of intuition in creative problem solving. In contrast, Johnson-Laird (1983) argued that mental models, broader schematic structures, might influence intuition and creative problem solving. With the activation of a mental model, and perhaps analyses of this model in relation to situational constraints, patterns should be activated. Subsequent application of these patterns in creative problem solving would give rise to intuition (Bonnerfon, 2004; Jansson, 1999; Perales, Catena, & Maldonado, 2004; Von Hecker, 2004). Finally, the degree of fit between mental models and the situation at hand might give rise to identification of congruent elements with these high fit, or congruent elements, providing a basis for the emergence of patterns and intuition (Gresov, 1989; Mockler, 2001), (Eubanks, Murphy, & Mumford, 2010).

Current research has found that the right side of the brain exhibits the most activity during intuitive events; it is the hemisphere that responds to visual activity and processes information holistically first, then notices details later. The right side is designed to manage abstract, divergent thinking, preferring to develop elements through intuition holistically, forging an answer based on feeling, not logic. The left side of the brain uses language and analytical processes, assisting in solving complex problems and activities (Glen Johnson <http://www.tbiguide.com/>). Intuition is related to both sides and, according to Ned Herrmann (1990), is currently ascribed as a whole-brain endeavor, making it available to both dreamers and chemistry professors.

Intuitive Processes

Beyond the sense of using their intuition, humans have also deliberately focused on reaching other states of mind through meditation, concentration, altered states, and a variation of extra-sensory perception called remote viewing. Consciously aiming thoughts towards perception of an answer has resulted in accurate products of the mind, suggesting that the paradigm of logical thought may well be impacted by the elusive. There is no denying the battleground between those who employ adulterated methods for their own gain, and the proponents of genuine psychic research who scrutinize for scientific accuracy. Where money or notoriety may be earned, there are those who attempt nefarious deeds.

James Randi has an international reputation as a magician and escape artist, but today he is best known as an investigator of paranormal and pseudoscientific claims who has exposed many fraudulent events (Randi, 2010). His website, found at

<http://www.randi.org/site/index.php/about-james-randi.html>, lists an “Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural” that provides a valuable resource for information on flimflam. Randi has pursued "psychic" spoonbenders, exposed the tricks of faith healers, and generally been a thorn in the sides of those who try to pull the wool over the public's eyes in the name of the supernatural.

We cannot allow our opinion of hucksterism to reverse the serious study that has occurred, the scholars must push forward into the centuries with open-minded intent. Whether a breakthrough comes from either the mathematical community or from the biological study of undiscovered life forces, finding a key to the paranormal is part of the future. Why stop at four dimensions, for example? Documented attempts *must* continue to move intuition and its components forward as an important instrument in the advanced study of creativity.

Creativity, the Science of Problem-Solving

Creative thinking is described as making and communicating connections, and to think of many new and unusual possibilities from countless points of view, by generating and selecting alternative ways of thinking. Critical thinking is described as analyzing and developing possibilities to: compare and contrast many ideas; improve and refine ideas; make effective decisions and judgments; and provide a sound foundation for effective action (Treffinger & Isaksen 1985). The premise of making and communicating connections to others may well include understanding the events which occur between ourselves and the paranormal, finding credible ways to interpret them, and establishing a viable catalogue for reference and comparison.

To me, the definition of creativity is an open invitation for investigating one of the most unfamiliar of senses and all of its divergent paths. Ignoring what may be our species' reason for climbing down out of trees will not save us from ourselves by sticking to purely empirical knowledge. Intuition is a part of our humanness, as well as a foreshadowing of who we are beyond earthly perimeters.

Many people have revealed their personal experiences regarding this sudden sensation of knowing. Some of us have encountered an intuitive event ourselves. What is the connection between these happenings, and how can it be used in bringing out intuitive qualities that we all possess? Researchers, such as Jean Houston (1982), have devised exercises for humans to experience segments of personality traits that may operate at a level unknown but constant, bearing little recognition during waking consciousness. The implication that intuition can be trained is real, but does it concern enhancement of preconscious observation (before a finger moves, the brain is aware 0.3 seconds prior to muscle reflex), or is there a psychic awareness available for development?

Skeptical Inquiry

Scientific experiments have not been able to replicate any semblance of a sixth sense even with strict criteria in place, to an acceptable degree for the academic community. People who claim psychic attributes have been found to be notoriously unable to locate information on cue, or have been found out to be duplicitous (Randi, 2010) (Myers, 2002). The James Randi Educational Foundation has offered a prize of \$1,000,000.00 to anyone who can demonstrate any psychic, supernatural or paranormal ability of any kind under mutually agreed upon scientific conditions (Randi, 2010). The

prize money has yet to be claimed. Yet, from information gathered by conversation, books, and news reports, the commanding testimony alone indicates that something is indeed in the air. Well, the argument could stand that you can fool some of the people all of the time, and those are the ones you want to concentrate on; this is found to be a useful premise by those wishing to gather an anxious following or start a cult.

However, the strategy behind this investigation is urged towards prominence by this author's personal experiences, which range from having a precognitive awareness to a ghostly, vigorous shaking that caused the couch I was sitting on to bounce. No way could my leg have pushed itself backwards into the cushion to create the disturbance. Knees don't bend like that, and the grip on my leg was firm, without temperature, and increasingly insistent.

The Preponderance of Evidence

A brief questionnaire was distributed by the author to elicit response from eighteen acquaintances and strangers as to their own outlook on intuitive thinking, the paranormal, and how they perceived these events as part of a creative life. The results of the survey were not surprising, and even though restricted to a small group, significant. Many allowed very personal information to be explored, and gratitude is exemplified by furthering the cause.

Out of the realm of mystery, the specific survey results as listed in Appendix C provide evidence that living people do experience the paranormal. The admonition, however, is that little of it is asked for or controllable. Many participants stated that they had dreams that provided answers, and even more answers reported sensory interactions

such as sound, voice, touch, movement or viewing of an apparition. All interviewees said they believe in an afterlife, with twelve of those believing in spirit guides in the form of angels, spirits, or loved ones who have passed on. Further, fifteen responded that intuition is considered a resource when needing an answer, and that it had played a significant role in life choices. Words like faith, extra-sensory perception, and prediction were accepted and used as defining clarifiers. Even more astonishing are the five people who, in this limited survey, claim to have viewed images that showed events before happening, this author being one of them.

Intuition is a good place to start, owing to the idea that it has been said to be the formation of inarticulate, or unconscious, local coherences that emerge as people begin work on a creative problem (Gardner & Nemirovsky, 1991). These affiliations form in terms of a deeper, innate structure composed not of explicit perceptions or concepts, but of hidden, implicit feelings that make themselves known in the divergent activities of creative thinking. Attaining new information, undiscovered solutions, and unique answers provide justification to the inclusion of intuition as a source for answering the unfathomable.

Who has it? Everyone has it in their area of strength (Maxwell, 2007), but to varying degrees, indicating that it may be possible to devise an instrument to measure the surrounding artifacts leading to strong intuitive qualities (Eubanks, Murphy, & Mumford, 2010). It is also hypothesized that the prevalence of intuition tells that it played an important role in our evolution, in giving us the ability to sense danger. These traits of emotional processing, nonverbal communication, subliminal priming, implicit memory,

implicit priming and behavioral studies are current areas of research seeking to strengthen knowledge of intuition and why it sometimes goes wrong (Myers, 2002).

In the scientific realm, psychological assessment attempts to measure the application of intuition and its variances. Yet there is more to it than that, in view of how intuitive events intertwine with the paranormal. To push further into the soup, intuition categorized as a sixth sense leads into the tricky and unstable domain presently labeled by academics as mystical, when it may merely be unknown.

Beyond What We Know

The term “paranormal” is defined in the dictionary as “beyond the range of normal experience or scientific explanation” (2010), which at one time could have included bacteria, heliocentricity, phosphorescence, and if we go back far enough, fire. My mother employed an old wives’ tale when I burned myself ironing, and put butter on the reddened skin, a folk remedy that is more likely to provide a launching pad for infection. Still, it was a solid belief soldiered right next to breathing night air, which allegedly contained miasmatic vapors that rose in the cooling temperature. These examples are conversationally ridiculous in hindsight, but who knows what will be found in the future throughout the coming thousands of years, that we can then look back and comment on present day paradigms.

The intuition framework in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is defined as thinking with a sixth sense or hunches rather than the five senses, thinking about what could be rather than what is, emphasizing theoretical possibilities and novelty rather than practicality or utility (Hirsh & Kummerow, 1990). Investigating intuition as a sixth sense

includes such experimental psychology as extra-sensory perception, telepathy, psychokinesis, precognitive dreams, apparitions, and remote viewing as a method of divination. It manifests as physically or emotionally kinesthetic gut-feelings, the auditory process of an inner voice, or as a visual intuitive flash that passes as an image through your brain very quickly (Nadel, Haimes, & Stempson, 2006). Other experiences of connection, which take intuition into the area of parapsychology, have been reported as dreams, apparitions, external sounds or physical touch.

Learning to use intuition along with your rational thought can begin by developing an awareness of the part of your brain that specializes in the intuitive process. It has been theorized that the left side of the brain likes information in bits and pieces, while the right side perceives holistically. Putting these microsecond events together produces a whole-brain approach that allows more than one system to perform. The clincher is that in our Western society, we are trained to discard the intuitive sensation in favor of rational thought (Nadel, Haimes, & Stempson, 2006), often missing the whole brain experience.

Engaging the Hemispheres

Here is a portion of an exercise designed to integrate both sides of the brain, constructed by the husband and wife team of Robert Masters and Jean Houston (1982):

1. Seat yourself comfortably with your spine straight. You will be sitting for about 45 minutes, so be sure the position can be maintained.
2. Consider what you would say to your brain if you could speak to it directly. Remember this thought, because it will be used near the end of the exercise.

3. Close your eyes and relax breathing into a regular rhythm. Keeping your eyes closed, use your left eye to look up, down, to the left and to the right. Repeat with your right eye. Notice which is easier, and release the muscles surrounding the orbits. Rest for one minute.
4. Shift your eyes back and forth from left to right, and be observant of any differences in accessibility. Now, keeping your eyes closed,
 - On the left side of your brain, imagine the number 1...
 - And on the right side, the letter A...
 - On the left side the number 2...
 - And on the right side the letter B...

Continue with the numbers on the left and the letters on the right, going to the number 26 and the letter Z. Rest for a minute.
5. Reverse the process by imagining the letter A on the left side of the brain, and the number one on the right side. Keep going, noting whether the left or right side was more pliant.

Houston continues the exercise by using visual images to be projected on either hemisphere, such as a sunrise on the left fading into a sunset on the right. The scenes become intricate in their imagining, and refer to smells, sights, sounds, sensations and combinations of all. She leads the exercise to an awareness of the physical brain, and focuses attention to the cerebral folds and of sensing the brain all as one, asking that we observe it sending messages through the thick band of fibers that connect the two sides.

While ending with a breathing exercise, she instructs the participant to imagine the brain also expanding and contracting with each breath. Here is where your remembered message from the beginning enters the activity; tell your brain what first occurred to you, and that functioning will get better. Relate to the brain that both sides will become better integrated, and that it works in partnership with you towards development of your potential. Listen and see if your brain has any messages for you, withholding any judgment, permitting feelings, words, or images to form for the next three or four minutes. Open your eyes. Exercises like this allow you stretch your possibilities, and become aware of the whole brain as an ally between the implicit and explicit universe of pre-consciousness and consciousness, a good first step towards the deliberate use of intuition.

Edward deBono's Six Thinking Hats

In creativity, intuitive thinking takes on the appearance of a red hat in Edward deBono's tool, "Six Thinking Hats", a useful management technique for looking at a problem from different perspectives which promotes parallel thinking instead of argument (de Bono, 1985). This metaphorical red hat happily encourages the sort of emotional thinking sometimes reserved for birthdays or meeting the new boss. Within de Bono's process, Red Hat Thinking focuses on feelings, hunches, gut instinct, and intuition, should last no longer than 30 seconds and is best described in one to two words. Red Hat Thinking also gives validity to feelings and intuition and doesn't require any explanation, may be used more than once in a session to gauge feelings, and it is not uncommon for the responding feelings to change throughout Six Hat Thinking (de Bono, 1985).

Types of Intuition

Emerging from the input of the business and creative worlds seems to be a categorization of intuition, in that many dismiss the sixth sense definition, while alluding to a type of intuition based on stored observation in one's brain cupboard. Strategic intuition is found in management (Duggan, 2007), dynamic intuition hails from the military (Bakken, Gilljam, & Bakken, 2001), cellular memory intuition is biological (Linton, 2003), and spiritual intuition means you have too much time on your hands according to the other types. Following is a brief description of the intuition that this paper is exploring, that of the sixth sense which provides sudden information without rational explanation. It exists in a sort of underground network of people of both genders who know better than to expose their reputations for examination. Some have lost their credibility, their job, or their health due to stressors from living with the denial that these events occur. You don't tell your physician, your employer, or anyone else who may have authority over your personal issues, and what a shame that this ability gets shoved into non-existence when I see a healthy, living tool to be developed in furthering creative thinking.

As a result, the spiritual experience of intuition will not be examined at this time other than the few reports gathered through a brief survey (see Appendix A). My intent is to view what I perceive to be the practical arena of intuition, and whether time can be broken into particles and reassembled elsewhere as an image (Kaku, 1994), that alongside of body and mind there exists another receptive dimension to humanity, usually called the soul, and how can these examples, besides others, be applied to our evolution of thought.

The Sixth Sense

Psi is a term used in parapsychology derived from the Greek letter *psyche* meaning “mind soul”, as suggested by biologist Bertold Wiesner and psychologist Robert Thouless as a non-theoretical manner of referring to extrasensory perception, psychokinesis, and survival after bodily death (1948). Later additions include remote viewing, telepathy, precognition, haunting, place memory, out of body experience, near death experience, and animal psi. Having experienced more than one version of psi throughout my lifetime, I can attest to the randomness of the events except when remote viewing was deliberately engaged. They all seem to have the same, mild level of interaction with few exceptions, for I have purposefully avoided delving into the more vivid dimensions since, frankly, parts of this stuff scare me.

As a child, I was a jumpy thing, but that may have more to do with relatives than with sensing. Not until I was an adolescent did any definitive occurrences happen, and those focused in the house we were living in. I heard footsteps on linoleum walking up to my door with no one there, several times there was the sound of a hand dragging across my pillow then tapping me on the head. This example could be place memory, the psi category describing a location or building, such as a house, that holds a memory of people or events that happened in the past. But, big deal, how does this connect to intuition?

These incidents drew my interest into researching extrasensory perception, and I would then devise methods hopefully leading to discovery of ability. It amazed me to find that I could spread a deck of cards face down in a row and pick out the aces with my eyes closed. This trick was not one hundred percent reliable in results, but it did not take long

to recognize the sensation in my fingertips that would signal which card to select, and it happened beyond the count of coincidence. I theorized that technically, any suit or number of card focused on should be able to be retrieved, yet there was no such luck. This ability faded as I grew, and completely disappeared in my mid-twenties. Could it be proposed that this predictive ability be useful had I kept practicing as I aged? How could it have been applied to problem-solving in creativity? Why only the aces? Was it inner talent, or pure, unconscious math? Psychics are not getting rich from lottery tickets or any other games of chance.

Unexplainable Occurrence

The event that solidified belief in the paranormal for myself happened in 1975 in a house on Greeley Street in Buffalo, New York. My friend lived in the upper apartment, and allowed me to stay there while my husband set up a new job and apartment in another state. I slept on the couch, and one evening around 11:00 p.m., after everyone else retired, I decided to turn in as well. The lights were on, the cats were over by the television, I was sitting against one arm of the sofa, legs stretched out on the cushions, when my left leg was roughly shaken. I thought one of the cats had jumped on me, hoped it was one of the cats for there was a sense that a cat couldn't have done what just physically happened. I sat up, saw the cats still in place thoroughly unconcerned, then watched as a force grabbed my leg just above the knee and vigorously push it down, bouncing the cushion against the frame as if to say, "Get up get up get up". I did.

Again, the questions that fascinate me, such as, what allowed this gripping sensation of a hand to occur, and for what random reason? What mechanism bridged

between two supposedly unbreakable planes from which this momentum, this desire to grab a leg came into being? There was no resolution, no reason behind it, no emergency that meant anything for this shaped impulse to come forward and interact purposefully. There was a force of will from some other place, seeming to be an action without a clear, meaningful purpose, but what an action.

Possibilities in Creative Thinking

Having experienced this has opened a wider range for problem-solving divergence and elaboration for individuals who consider themselves as having sixth sense abilities. What if we talked with one another openly during creative ventures? How can this be categorized as a creative tool? Where else could this topic be placed, if not inside the arena regarding the future of creative thinking? Continued research combined with open skeptical minds is necessary, we need to be working in tandem.

Remote-Viewing and Clairvoyance

Other areas of psi are also legitimately occurring to people, with better results and surprising proponents. Remote viewing, an art sometimes called clairvoyance, has been funded in studies by both the Russian and United States governments, most notably the Stargate project that ran from the 1970s up to 1995 through The Stanford Research Institute. The Stargate Project created a set of protocols designed to make the research of psychic phenomena more scientific, and to minimize session noise and inaccuracy (May, 1996), (Long, 2009). I have never been able to gather information in such fashion, yet have experienced a type of waking precognition that presents images of future events,

received during a purposefully calmed state of mind. A smiling woman with black barrettes symmetrically placed in her blonde hair, entering, gesturing, carrying a large case was an image that came to me again and again in response to a personal question. Six months later, as I sat in a room with my son, she walked in hauling her cello in its case. It provided an answer, and has many times since.

Some questions are blocked, and I receive a fuzzy static or an internal feminine voice telling me that I don't need to know that. Other times, sensations of sound, pressure, or images enter my awareness, usually with no interpretive assistance. Sometimes they apply to the people around me, or come unbidden, the messages may also be a sensation of an occurrence happening elsewhere. I get the impression that there are criteria, and that this may be a glance at the bringing together of knowledge. It cannot be assumed that communication from another plane comes from anything that knows more than us, or the breakthroughs that do occur might happen with a greater frequency, and to more people.

Current Research

The implications of employing a useful intuitive state in both the divergent and convergent process of creative thinking point to a worthwhile investigation, as well as finding increasingly specific ways to initiate and measure results. I have yet to find any results produced by electronic voice phenomena, a manner of recording voices supposedly from paranormal sources, that satisfies reasonable study, but on the other hand, there are reports by individuals of voice contact without a natural explanation. It must be said to be a possibility, just as much as the physical event of shaking that I had experienced.

Reportedly, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or SETI, group of astronomers in a dozen countries are aiming telescopes to listen in once again on some of the stars that were part of the world's first search for alien life 50 years ago, (Moskowitz, 2010). With just as much hope, evidence supports study of the phenomena of intuition and all of its branches. I strongly back the critical element that argues against the existence of psi, otherwise any claim similar in intent to the fable of the boy who cried “Wolf” would lead to a gaggle of geese, all honking at once.

Marci Segal, states it well in her online blog that:

Wisdom from hunches and gut feel often associated with women’s ways diminished in value. Referred to old wives tales, or voices from the devil, people refrained from chancing a pronouncement that arrived from their intuition because they may lose face and/or their life. The logic-centered ruling class’s influence on the populace shaped popular opinion about intuition and this has prevailed for 500 years. (Segal, 2010, pp.2)

Leading the edge of intuitive studies in relationship to the newly formed Creative Problem Solving Thinking Skills Model (CPSTSM) (Puccio, Murdock & Mance, 2007), Janice Francisco and Cynthia Burnett have added the term “Integrated” at the beginning (ICPSTSM) as a means of a more wholistic [*sic*] approach that includes intuition, cognitive and affective skills. Their work presents a practical definition of intuition that places it on a continuum with rational thinking processes and recognizes it as a product of intention, knowledge, action and trust (Francisco and Burnett, 2008).

Summary

Because of the current limitations regarding intuitive thinking such as accepted validity, reliability, historic exclusion, and most of all, its perceived subjective nature, most creative measures do not examine or urge the use of “gut feelings” enough. The abuse that has come into play from nefarious dealings also give a shallow, mawkish tone when as a science of reality, it has few boundaries within space or time. Maybe, because placement solely within science is resisted (Randi, 2010) there needs to be another category, one that blends science with art as a process of gathering information, or of communication.

Conclusion

We find ourselves drawn to new ideas, which show us how to use the talents we bring to the table. As an excitable assemblage, humans are the only animal group known, so far, to daydream or to imagine the future. Our nature is to move forward and peer over the edge of the known world, be the abyss filled with monsters or gold ducats. I say go for it, try it out, experiment with what exercises Jean Houston (1996) or Cynthia Burnett (2008) have modeled for meeting either psi or intuitive abilities, respectively. The only thing that might come of it is that you create a new pattern of thought process, and move into a useful manner of trusting yourself for the benefit of others as well.

Completing this project opened many new relationships, in that the responders to the questionnaire were glad to share, were happy not to be ridiculed, and now feel a common bond as part of the group who participated. They wanted to talk, as if a floodgate had opened. I have placed the results in Appendix B, offering the results as evidence that

needs addressing, surprising as it was to this author the amount of experiences reported. What I thought interesting was that the responders with high incidences were often clustered together by proximity, whether through workplace or shared living quarters. The same with those who reported few events or beliefs; rarely was there a combination of an intuitive with someone who purely preferred logic. Is there an unspoken allegiance between intuitives or any other type? It seemed to be a sorting by preference, the old adage being, “Birds of a feather flock together.”

How can this be explored responsibly, without implicating the mumbo-jumbo or worse, leading our selves astray? Apparently not an easy endeavor, for not replicating enough data for measurement has frustrated research for years, but this must not stop us from using the intuition we have to further the creative cause. It is real, and must be found out if it is either an extraordinary ability, or if the sixth sense should be placed entirely in another category that exists beyond human structure.

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Appendix A

Suggested Reading:

- DeBono, E. (1985). *Six thinking hats: an essential approach to thinking management*. New York: Little, Brown, & Company.
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Appendix B

B1: Questionnaire Cover Page

Thank you for your indulgence and contribution to this gathering of information. I am writing a paper on intuitive and mostly immeasurable qualities and their use as a supplement to creative thinking. If you have received this questionnaire, it means I feel safe approaching you regarding this often-dismissed subject. Toss it if you like, there are no returning addresses for me to hunt you down.

Not much has been received scientifically, yet the American government has funded projects dealing with Remote Viewing (Stanford University, 1970), and more recently, the psychic espionage program called STAR GATE (1995).

This exploration at a personal level also does not include fortune telling, healing stones, crystal balls or accompanying hoo-ha, which I consider dangerous and unhelpful to anyone. Journals, mandalas, or other comparative ways of note-taking are welcome.

I am also purposefully avoiding religious overtones, for the mysticism associated with varying faiths forms a paradigm of expected behavior. Of course, rules are made to be broken, so if you have to cut loose, do so.

My purpose is to illuminate an often hit-or-miss resource in a much smaller manner.

Again, a grateful thank you for your consideration and time.

Susan D. Coburn

Questionnaire Page One

Intuitive Questionnaire

Date _____

1. Place a check mark beside the areas in which you feel you have had more events occur than the average person.

- dreams that have provided a resolution
- dreams that have provided information not evident in waking life
- an individual experience with the paranormal
 - a. sound
 - b. voice
 - c. sensation of being touched
 - d. movement of an object
 - e. witness to visual event/apparition

Write any further comments regarding personal experience that you are willing to share, or details concerning the above. What happened? How did you feel when it happened? Has that changed at all?

2. Place a check mark beside the sentences that apply to you:

- I believe in an afterlife.
- Intuition has played a part in my life choices.
- I have been able to predict an event before other people.
- Images have shown me events before they happen.
- Feelings have given me clues to outcomes.
- I have sensed changes before their occurrence.
- I have a strong faith.
- I have a sort of Extra-Sensory Perception
- I believe there are spirit guides, angels, or passed loved ones who watch over us.
- When I need an answer, intuition is considered a valued addition to other sources of information.
- I know someone who has reported events.
- I share this information with others.
- I have never had any experiences with the paranormal.

Write any further comments regarding beliefs, spirituality, or personal opinions.

ALL ANSWERS ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS. THIS SURVEY MEASURES SUPPORT FOR INTUITIVE QUALITIES AND THEIR USE IN CREATIVITY.

Questionnaire Page Two

3. Theory of personality includes types with a predilection towards intuitive events. Place a check mark next to the choice that best applies to you:

I would say that I am _____ extraverted.

_____ introverted.

I can tell what other people are thinking

_____ before they say or do anything.

_____ when they tell me.

I would rather be known for _____ solid details.

_____ new ideas.

Judgment should be based on _____ fairness.

_____ individual circumstances.

I would rather be thought of as _____ pragmatic.

_____ outside-of-the-box thinking.

I'm busy and this questionnaire is _____ annoying!

_____ intriguing; let me tell you more.

Describe any related experience concerning intuition/ sixth sense/ the paranormal that pops into your head. No pun intended.

ALL ANSWERS ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS. THIS SURVEY MEASURES SUPPORT FOR INTUITIVE QUALITIES AND THEIR USE IN CREATIVITY.

Appendix C

Results of the Survey, tallied by the number of checks received for each question. 18 people responded.

2 said they had dreams that have provided a resolution

8 had dreams that have provided information not evident in waking life

11 claim an individual experience with the paranormal

a. 4 with sound

b. 6 with voice

c. 5 with the sensation of being touched

d. 4 observed movement of an object

e. 7 were witness to visual event/apparition

2. Place a check mark beside the sentences that apply to you:

18 said they believe in an afterlife.

14 said intuition has played a part in my life choices.

5 said they have been able to predict an event before other people.

5 said images have shown me events before they happen.

13 said feelings have given me clues to outcomes.

7 said they have sensed changes before their occurrence.

6 said they have a strong faith.

8 said they have a sort of Extra-Sensory Perception

12 believe there are spirit guides, angels, or passed loved ones who
watch over us.

15 said that when they need an answer, intuition is considered a valued addition
to other sources of information.

12 said they know someone who has reported events.

10 said they share this information with others.

3 have never had any experiences with the paranormal.

Appendix D

Written Elaboration on Survey Questions by Respondents:

“I have heard bells at the passing of a loved one, and the occasional feeling of heat or an unexplained chill. I thought these occurrences were a way of communication, but not frightening. We are all connected in one way or another to the earth, and perhaps this intuition is an inherited, intrinsic knowledge that is ever present but often suppressed by the rational mind. I remember being in the State Supreme Court Chambers as a teenager and being shown the judge’s chair and knowing I had been there before.”

“I consider myself to be staunchly agnostic in all things religious. I acknowledge there are things we don’t know about, though I will not attribute them to anything supernatural, unusual occurrences are often set apart as outside of nature.”

“15 pound statue floated into the air, moved toward me, landed on rug softly, gently. There are spirits in my house that use other ways to get my attention—voice, sound, apparition.”

“I am able to touch in with others (mentally), able to sense ESP, angels guide me through visuals and voices.”

“I witnessed my deceased grandmother in the dress she was buried in. I lived 3,000 miles away from the event. I felt my uncle, saw him in the hospital having a heart attack. I believe that we can communicate with other planes of existence and I rely on paranormal help daily to help me in all aspects of my life.”

“I have experienced tingling and heat in diagnosing an illnesses that others cannot feel. I heard a voice once, in my ear alert me to an animal’s condition that I myself had not yet perceived say ‘He’s not breathing.’ Because of this we were able to reverse the anesthetic given and save his life.”

“My dad (deceased) squeezed my shoulder, seen him in my hallway—it was soothing, reassuring.”

“Distinctly heard my name called on two occasions. Witnessed a closing door when I was alone, no breeze, really weird! I experienced a strong sense of being watched, it was not scary, just weird.”

“I believe I was spared a very unfortunate outcome through some type of divine intervention. I do know two people who have experienced multiple, significant events with ghosts. I consider these people reliable and very sane, they are both also quite creative.”

“When I was about 5 years old, I witnessed what seemed to be an average height, middle aged man in a brown suit walk through my dining room and vanish into the kitchen. I don’t know why ghosts are here, but I strongly believe they are here to complete something that they did not get the chance to do when they were alive.”

“I get many ideas from my dreams. It is the time when I am most relaxed.”

“A few weeks after my grandpa died, I was sleeping but felt someone watching me. When I woke up, it was him sitting at the end of my bed. We have also experienced items falling off of shelves and cabinets opening.”

“As I walked through my kitchen, I thought I saw my sister, wearing a long white nightgown, walking from my parents’ side of the hallway into my bedroom. When I went into my room, she wasn’t there and she was sound asleep in her room, wearing a green t-shirt and shorts. I didn’t mention anything to her because she is afraid of everything. A few days later, she asked me who spent the night that previous night. When I told her no one, she looked at me confused and said, ‘Well then who was the girl in the white nightgown sleeping in your bed?’”

“I make a lot of decisions and judgments based on intuition. Hard to explain, but I just know some things.”

