

# **Philosophy and Creativity**

**Philosophical thinking about creativity and creative thinking about philosophy?**

# Preview

- Evolution, Rationality, Consciousness, Creativity
- Kinds of Creativity
- Evolutionary Themes linked with Creativity
  - Diversity and conformity
  - Social behaviour, culture and its evolution
- Stages in the Evolution (of Rationality and Creativity)?

# Kinds of Creativity

## mapping the family - one dimension

- **Solve** - a problem
  - Find a solution to a new problem: scientific discovery, engineering achievement, software development ...
- **Share** - a perspective on the world
  - Share an understanding of some aspect of the world: creative writing, novels, impressionist art...
- **Express** - the inner self
  - Express your inner feelings, sentiments, moods and insights: romantic music, expressionist art...
- **Lead** - a movement or a cult
  - The iconic creator with an unconditionally loyal following, who may create by whim (e.g. Picasso)

# Stages of Creation by Evolution

- **Pre-biotic** (chemical) evolution
- **Genetic** evolution, natural selection (3.8Ba)  
(gene/soma distinction, reproduction by cell division)
- **Sexual** reproduction and **selection**, genetic recombination (1.2Ba)  
(evolution of brain, memory and mind occurs here,  
Also: peacock's tail and birds of paradise)
- **Cultural** evolution & selection (2Ma); language and verbal culture (200Ka)  
Finally, human creativity
- **Synthetic** evolution (0)  
(ecosystem genome design; using laboratory evolution)

# Diversity generators and Conformity enforcers

- ***Evolution*** is the scientific answer to how beautiful and complex natural objects arise, which otherwise would involve ***intelligent creative design***
- Evolution = reproduction + variation + selection
- All three vary as evolution itself evolves and in distinct coexisting evolutionary processes.
- The diversity/variation component anticipates and evolves into creativity, abetted by selection.

# Socialisation

- There is strength in numbers, which shows in the earliest life forms.
- Bacteria live in colonies, some prioritise bodily contact over food access
- The advantages of social life depend on:
  - proximity
  - communication
  - coordination
  - bonding

# The(?) Creative Personality

## Some dimensions

- Convergent/Divergent?
- Introvert/Extrovert?
- Rule-follower mimic/ rule-breaker trend-maker
- ...

# Pervasive Evolutionary Themes

1. Evolution is mostly rational (adaptive), ***but***
  - Sexual selection is positive feedback hence:
    - Peacock's tail, birds of paradise
    - Fashion and art
    - Sects, Cults, ...
2. conformity enforcers v. diversity generators
3. inner judges, self-selection, apoptosis & suicide
4. resource shifters: serotonin & dopamine



# Selected Evolutionary Themes

- *Evolution* achieves by natural selection effects like *creative design*
- Eventually cultural evolution results in intelligent creative life
- Diversity generators & conformity enforcers
  - Fundamental to evolution as variation and selection in many forms
- Socialisation
  - Almost all life is social, and sock