



<https://doi.org/10.23939/shv2024.02.031>

РОЗШИРЕННЯ ГОРИЗОНТІВ: ВИВІЛЬНЕННЯ СИЛИ УЯВИ ТА ТВОРЧОГО МИСЛЕННЯ¹.

Рецензія на: Kind, A. (2022). *Imagination and Creative Thinking*. Cambridge Elements: *Philosophy of Mind*. Edited by Keith Frankish. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 64 p.

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(Отримано: 30.05.2024. Прийнято: 03.09.2024)

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Новаторська праця Емі Кайнд “Уява та креативне мислення”, опублікована Кембриджським університетом, досліджує складний зв’язок між уявою та процесами творчого мислення. Це дослідження забезпечує комплексне та ґрунтовне дослідження фундаментального впливу уяви на людське пізнання. Заглиблюючись у складність цієї фундаментальної когнітивної здатності, вона пропонує розглянути цінне джерело творчості.

Ключові слова: уява, мислення, творчість, нововведення, відкриття, креативний штучний інтелект.

EXPANDING HORIZONS: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF IMAGINATION AND CREATIVE THINKING

Review of: Kind, A. (2022). *Imagination and Creative Thinking*. Cambridge Elements: *Philosophy of Mind*. Edited by Keith Frankish. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 64 p.

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(Received: 30.05.2024. Accepted: 03.09.2024)

Amy Kind’s groundbreaking work, “*Imagination and Creative Thinking*” published by Cambridge University, explores the intricate relationship between imagination and the processes of creative thinking. This research provides a comprehensive and insightful exploration of the profound impact imagination has on human cognition and innovation. By delving into the complexities of this fundamental cognitive ability, Kind’s work proposes to consider a valuable wellspring of creativity.

Key words: *imagination, creativity, thinking, innovation, discovery, creative artificial intelligence.*

What do we know about imagination? What does our creative thinking entail and is it possible to develop it? Can we be creative from birth? The answers to these and other questions were revealed to me while reading Amy Kind’s work “*Imagination and Creative Thinking*”

published by Cambridge University [Kind, 2022]. This publication helps to understand one of the basic everyday aspects of human existence. Regardless of your profession, you will be able to discover your personal potential and open all the doors to the world of creative thinking and imagination.

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In a world of constant development and innovative technologies, this topic remains especially relevant, because the ability to think creatively and generate ideas is becoming an increasingly important skill in today's world. However, creativity, innovative thinking, and imagination remain human strengths that are difficult to replicate with artificial intelligence or automated systems. Creativity and imagination require flexibility, intuition, interdisciplinary approach and openness to new ideas and perspectives. It is safe to say that Amy Kind's work addresses issues that are important to modern science, particularly in the fields of cognitive psychology, philosophy of mind, and creativity research.

First of all, Amy Kind argues that imagination is not simply a matter of generating mental images or fantasies, but is a cognitive process that enables us to engage with the world in various ways. To improve our understanding of this statement, the author suggests three different situations. The first vignette involves two children, Penny and Priya, who engage in imaginative play as pirates. They transform the play structures into pirate ships, the grass into the ocean, and the sandbox into a buried treasure island. Their imaginative play involves envisioning a world different from reality. In the second vignette, Dave is redecorating his living room. Imagination plays a role as he mentally visualizes the different options, comparing shades of paint on the walls and imagining the arrangement of furniture in the space. The third vignette focuses on Emily in the workplace kitchen. She observes a tense interaction between her coworkers, Ellen and Eddie. In order to understand their emotions, she relies on imagination. Emily imagines herself in their positions, trying to empathize with their feelings and understand the meaning behind their expressions. But imagination is not limited to these examples. Imagination is also used for writing fiction, problem-solving, and remembering where we placed our belongings, as well as it is useful in various professional pursuits. Athletes often employ imagination for mental preparation, visualizing their performance and strategies. Chefs rely on imagination to explore culinary creativity, combining flavors and envisioning new dishes. Imagination is present in many aspects of our existence, playing a fundamental role in shaping our thoughts, actions and experiences. The author emphasizes that imagination can be divided into instructive and transcendent use. In instructive use, imagination aims to learn something about the world as it is. In transcendent use, imagination aims to escape the world as it is. For example, in scientific and mathematical contexts, imagination is mainly used in an instructional manner. Scientists and mathematicians stretch their imaginations to explore and understand the possibilities and implica-

tions of different theories and concepts. Instructive use of imagination is seen as a crucial aspect of engaging with fictional works, as readers use their imagination to visualize characters, settings, and emotions described in a text. However, readers are often constrained by the author's descriptions and intentions, so they may experience imaginative resistance, where they actively challenge or surpass these limitations.

Creativity is often described as the ability to generate ideas, concepts, or solutions that are both original and valuable. However, the author notes that not everything new can be considered creative.

Amy Kind identifies three types of creativity: *person-creativity*, *process-creativity*, and *product-creativity* [Ibid: 21]. Personal creativity refers to inherent imaginative and innovative qualities possessed by certain people. It emphasizes the creative potential of individuals, their ability to generate new ideas and their achievements in a certain field. If we are talking about process-creativity, then instead of focusing exclusively on the final result, this form of creativity values the originality and uniqueness of the thinking process. The term product-creativity covers a wide range of creative outputs, such as works of art, technological inventions, scientific discoveries, philosophical theories, etc.

While the terms "imagination" and "creativity" are often used as synonyms, there are important differences between them. Imagination refers to mental activity, while creativity can be manifested as a feature of individuals, their actions or creations. However, despite these differences, there is a close connection between imagination and creativity. Having a good imagination is considered a necessary condition for creativity. Creative individuals usually demonstrate imaginative thinking and generate new ideas. Imagination allows you to explore possibilities and generate alternative perspectives, which are essential for creativity to flourish.

Imagination serves two contrasting aspects: cognitive playfulness and cognitive workfulness. Cognitive playfulness refers to the playful and fun nature of imagination. It allows you to explore ideas and scenarios without the constraints of truth or reality. On the other hand, imagination also has a purposive or work aspect. It can be directed towards specific goals and problem-solving tasks. In this mode, imagination serves as a cognitive tool for cognitive manipulation. By voluntarily engaging in non-truth-bound thinking, individuals can mentally manipulate and reconfigure conceptual spaces, explore the boundaries of existing knowledge, and push the limits of conventional thinking.

Philosophers around the world still debate whether creativity is innate or can be developed throughout life. Figures such as Shakespeare, Coleridge, Plato,

and Kant have defended the first point of view. They believed that creative individuals are inspired by the Muses and experience a divine madness that sparks their creative powers. On the other side of the debate, philosophers like Robert Audi and Alan Hájek argue that creativity is a skill that can be nurtured and developed. Imagination is closely related to creativity, and some philosophers and psychologists consider it a skill that can be honed through practice and training. If imagination can be trained and creativity is built upon imagination, then it follows that creativity can also be nurtured and developed. We don't have to wait for divine inspiration, we have the power to cultivate our imaginative and creative capacities through deliberate practice and training.

In conclusion to all of the above, imagination is not an absolute requirement for creativity, but it is often closely related to it. However, it is important that both imagination and creativity are not fixed or immutable abilities. Given the importance of imagination and creativity in various contexts, we all benefit from actively working to develop our imagination and creativity. With

the development of technology, we can expect even more outstanding achievements from machines in the future. This progress will undoubtedly present new challenges to philosophical thinking about imagination and creativity, encouraging us to expand our understanding of these possibilities beyond the human realm. Amy Kind not only provided an overview of the current landscape in the philosophy of imagination and creativity, but also laid the groundwork for further research in the years to come. For a better and easier understanding, the author gives various examples and situations, which makes reading this *Element* more accessible to readers. I definitely recommend Amy Kind's work "Imagination and Creative Thinking" to everyone, who wants to start their journey in discovering their own potential.

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