# **Story Time**



 $\underline{\text{This Photo}} \text{ by Unknown Author is licensed under } \underline{\text{CC BY}}$ 

In an interaction with a Meta AI system, the system responded with a story on creativity, (Meta AI, 20 September 2024)

# Teaching creativity in the formal curriculum By Dr Nirashnee Padayachee



#### Reflect on three questions below:



What does creativity mean to you?



How are you teaching and nurturing creativity?



Why should you be teaching and nurturing creativity?



Vega, P. 2023. 3 Reasons why creativity is essential for the future education. [Online image]. <a href="https://www.eschoolnews.com/steam/2023/07/24/3-reasons-creativity-is-essential-for-the-future-of-education/">https://www.eschoolnews.com/steam/2023/07/24/3-reasons-creativity-is-essential-for-the-future-of-education/</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]

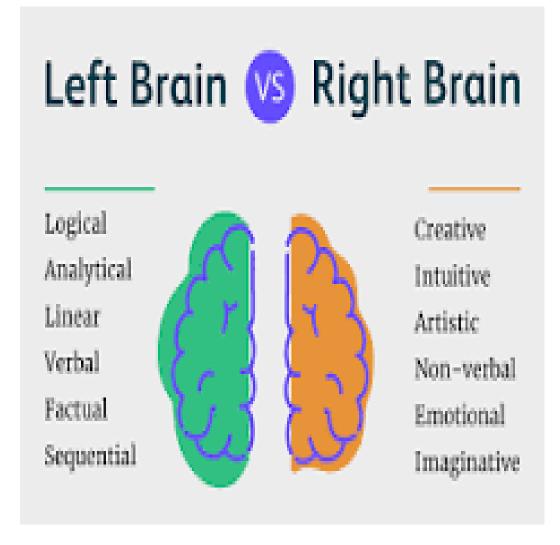
#### Reflection

As a research academic my brain is wired to be pre-dominantly left brain biased.

Sometimes many of us in academia are left brain biased.

To promote engagement, active participation and delivery of the curriculum we need to create balance and harmony by incorporating right brain activity into the curriculum as well.

How do we go about this?



Cherry, K. 2024. Left Brain Vs Right Brain Dominance. [Online image]. <a href="https://www.verywellmind.com/left-brain-vs-right-brain-2795005">https://www.verywellmind.com/left-brain-vs-right-brain-2795005</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]

# **Brain Balancing**



Adeigbo, A. 2017.Reconcile Your Right And Left Brain To Become A Better Entrepreneur [Online image

https://www.forbes.com/sites/autumnadeigbo/2017/03/04/reconcile-your-right-and-left-brain-to-become-a-better-entrepreneur / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]



Stites, M. 2015. Brain Balance Centers: An insider's perspective .[Online image]. <a href="https://neurobollocks.wordpress.com/2015/03/25/brain-balance-centers-an-insiders-perspective/">https://neurobollocks.wordpress.com/2015/03/25/brain-balance-centers-an-insiders-perspective/</a> [Accessed: 27.08.2024]

#### Let's Find out

Heres a classic brain teaser that can help you distinguish whether you are leftbrained or right brained:

The Water Jug Problem

You have 3 water jugs: one holds 3 litres, one holds 5 litres and one holds 8 litres. How can you measure exactly 4 litres of water using only these three jugs?

- Left Brained Approach
- Try to solve it step by step, using logical reasoning and Mathematical calculations.
- Think about how to fill and empty the jugs in a specific order to reach the exact 4-litre measurement.

- Right Brained Approach
- Look for a creative solution, thinking outside the box
- Consider unconventional methods, like tilting or rotating the jugs or using them in a non-obvious way.

### What does research say?

- McGilchrist (2023) argues that in Western societies we have overused the left side of our brain that we are consistently missing the importance of the bigger picture, and that we completely rely on our intellect at the expense of our intuition.
- The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift (Bindal, 2024).
- The right brain has amazing features that we need to tap into in order to unlock students unlimited potentials and capabilities



Chapman, C. 2020.What is creativity? [Online image <a href="https://medium.com/@cameron\_chapman/what-is-creativity-9268ff706233">https://medium.com/@cameron\_chapman/what-is-creativity-9268ff706233</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]

#### Why should teaching creativity be central to the curriculum?



Creativity is valuable in education because it builds cognitive complexity.



Creativity relies on having deep knowledge and being able to use it effectively.



Being creative involves using an existing set of knowledge or skills in a particular subject or context to experiment with new possibilities in the pursuit of valued outcomes, thus increasing both knowledge and skills



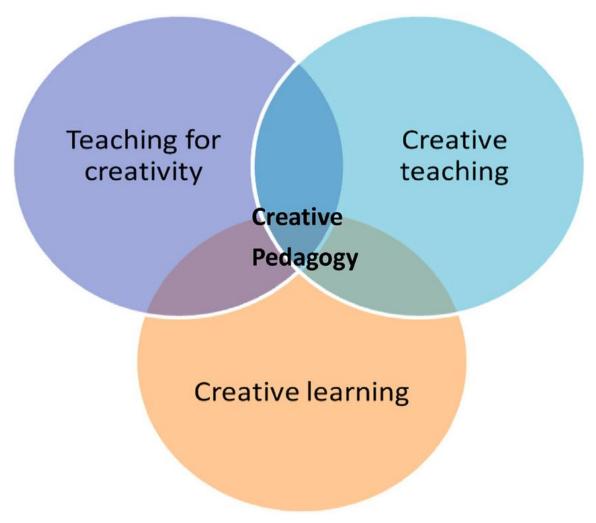
Creativity must also have a result or an outcome.



Outputs may also be intangible: they might be an idea for a solution or a new way of looking at existing knowledge and ideas.

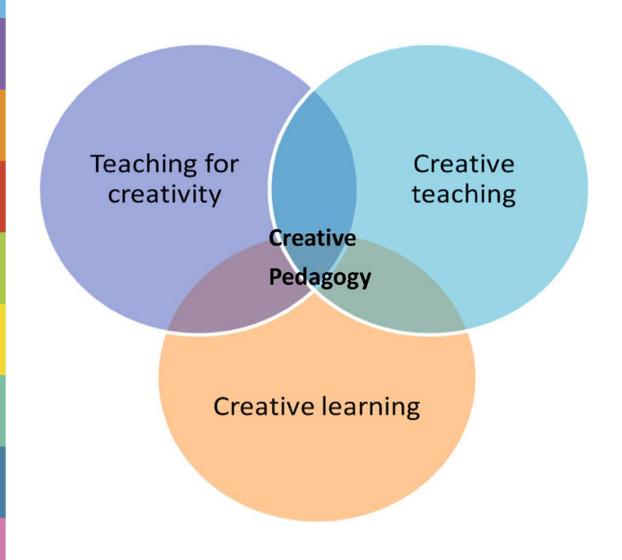
The World Economic Forum Future Jobs Report has suggested fifteen skills that will be most needed in 2025 and moving forward. At least 10 of these are direct outputs of developing independent learners through creativity such as: Analytical thinking and innovation. Complex problem-solving. Creativity, originality and initiative Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility. Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation.

Figure 1:3 Elements of Creative Pedagogy



Adapted from (Lin, 2014: 3-56)

Creative Teaching	Teachers Actions	It considers that lecturers 'should use creative, dynamic and innovative approaches in their teaching in order to make learning more interesting and effective
Teaching for Creativity	Focuses on creating an environment that offers opportunities to support and develop students' creativity	To create this environment, the lecturer will identify the students' creative abilities and will provide them with opportunities and situations to apply and develop these abilities. Also, the lecturer will adopt an open-minded attitude towards the students' creative ideas and behaviours, and he or she will also appreciate the student's independent thinking
Creative Learning	Students Actions	Creative learning aims for an active learning where students learn by questioning, inquiring, searching, and experimenting



• The interaction between these three concepts (creative teaching, teaching for creativity, and creative learning) need to be considered during the learning/teaching process

Adapted from (Lin, 2014: 3–56)

# Plot your module into this framework











WHAT ACTIONS ARE YOU TAKING? (CREATIVE TEACHING)

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOU CREATING TO DEVELOP CREATIVITY? (TEACHING CREATIVITY)

HOW ARE STUDENTS' QUESTIONING, INQUIRING, EXPERIMENTING AND SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS I IN YOUR MODULE? (CREATIVE LEARNING)

### **Teaching Creativity**

Encourage Choices Mind mapping Brainstorming Curiosity Real World Divergent **Taking Risks Improvisation Thinking** Examples Celebrate Process over Collaboration Expression originality product

# **Divergent Thinking**

**Brainstorming** 

Generating ideas in unstructured manner

Forming Teams

Forming teams to create ideas

Open Innovation Collecting ideas from inside and outside org.

Culture

Building a culture of collaboration and participation

Motivation

Encouraging everyone to share ideas

Mind mapping

Encouraging teams to mind mapping problems

#### Final Word

• When it comes to teaching creatively, we use both the heart and the mind in equal measure. When we approach teaching/lectures with creativity, it sparks curiosity, engagement, and innovation among students. It encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and abstract reasoning skills, and can foster a learner's ability to explore different ways of thinking and perceiving problems (Crockette, 2024).







#### References

- Adeigbo, A. 2017.. Reconcile Your Right And Left Brain To Become A Better Entrepreneur [Online image <a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/autumnadeigbo/2017/03/04/reconcile-your-right-and-left-brain-to-become-a-better-entrepreneur">https://www.forbes.com/sites/autumnadeigbo/2017/03/04/reconcile-your-right-and-left-brain-to-become-a-better-entrepreneur</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]
- Chapman, C. 2020.What is creativity? [Online image <a href="https://medium.com/@cameron\_chapman/what-is-creativity-9268ff706233">https://medium.com/@cameron\_chapman/what-is-creativity-9268ff706233</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]
- Cremin, T. and Chappell, K., 2021. Creative pedagogies: A systematic review. Research Papers in Education, 36(3), pp.299-331.
- Crockette, L., 2024. Future-Focused Learning: 10 Essential Shifts of Everyday Practice.
- Cherry, K. 2024. Left Brain Vs Right Brain Dominance. [Online image]. <a href="https://www.verywellmind.com/left-brain-vs-right-brain-2795005">https://www.verywellmind.com/left-brain-vs-right-brain-2795005</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024]
- Karimovna, S.Z., 2023. CREATIVE PEDAGOGY IS NEW TO PEDAGOGY THE APPROACH. *Galaxy International Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 11(11), pp.437-439.
- Lin, Y.S., 2014. A third space for dialogues on creative pedagogy: Where hybridity becomes possible. *Thinking skills and Creativity*, *13*, pp.43-56.

- Ettlinger, O., 2023. The divided brain and ways of building the world: parallels in the thought of lain McGilchrist and Christopher Alexander. *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, 47(2), pp.183-189.
- Stites, M. 2015. Brain Balance Centers: An insider's perspective.[Online image]. https://neurobollocks.wordpress.com/2015/03/25/brain-balance-centers-an-insiders-perspective/ [Accessed: 27.08.2024]
- Vega, P. 2023. 3 Reasons why creativity is essential for the future education. [Online image]. <a href="https://www.eschoolnews.com/steam/2023/07/24/3-reasons-creativity-is-essential-for-the-future-of-education/">https://www.eschoolnews.com/steam/2023/07/24/3-reasons-creativity-is-essential-for-the-future-of-education/</a> / [Accessed: 27.08.2024