

## Creativity Reconsidered

**From:** [Dr. Louise Sundararajan](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 5:21 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)  
**Subject:** IP--creativity reconsidered

**Dear All,**

In light of Tony Marsella's message and article below:

**Welcome Professor Min Tang. Tony**

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2014/03/some-thoughts-on-creativity-and-life/>

The following TED talk (see attached) reveals something peculiar about the AI perspective: In the brave new world of AI, those whose jobs are being replaced by robots are not being "creative" enough—the world belongs to the new elites who are smart and creative and have enough money to work less hours, so that they can be with their families. Forget about the migrant workers who can't afford to do so, because they are not being "creative" enough.

What do you think?

Louise

[TED Talk by Kai-Fu Lee](#)

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**From:** [Michelle Brenner](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 5:49 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)  
**Subject:** Re: IP--creativity reconsidered

Wow, that was amazing. Thank you so much for sending it around, is he part of our network? I will send this on.

Kind regards Michelle

***Michelle Brenner***

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**From:** [Maureen O'Hara](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:08 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)  
**Subject:** Re: IP--creativity reconsidered

Once again, Tony's words wake me up. I have been feeling for some time that the rise of AI is a suicidal move for our species. I am increasingly struck by the dead eyed look of workers whose jobs are to be feeders of data to AI algorithms. In focus groups it takes only a matter of minutes for the pain of those condemned to work according to AI scripts to surface. Even medical workers--we used to call them doctors--are now humiliated by AI data bases that reduce their expertise to following the protocol. While indigenous intelligence is an expression of Eros--the life force which through the emergence of never-before-known forms brings novelty and evolution AI thrives on conformity, predictability and control. It is a child of Thanatos--the movement towards death. I sometimes get dark images that to the degree to which we are complicit in the spread of "intelligent systems" and AI "solutions" we are participating in our own demise--suicide.

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**From:** [Dr. Gayle Morse](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:29 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)  
**Subject:** Re: IP--creativity reconsidered

Thank you Maureen for explicating what was a vague tugging on my conscience.  
and Thank you Tony for your beautiful essay.

Warm Regards,  
Gayle

Gayle Skawen:nio Morse, PhD  
Associate Professor, Licensed Psychologist  
President, Society of Indian Psychologists (2017-2019)  
Past Chair, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI-2016)  
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Editor: Journal of Indigenous Research  
Revised APA Multicultural Guidelines just launched: Multicultural Guidelines: An Ecological **Approach to Context, Identity, and Intersectionality. 2017**  
**On APA website:** <http://www.apa.org/about/policy/multicultural-guidelines.aspx>

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**From:** [Lonny Meinecke](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:51 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)  
**Subject:** RE: IP--creativity reconsidered

Dear Louise, All,

This topic is especially poignant for me. I like what Dr. Marsella chose as a metaphor; it's not long ago I designed a course on parenting around something like it (based on Dr. Alston Gopnik's insights about transgenerational bonds – grandmothers and survival). Almost every day, my indigeneous wife reminds me how utterly creative the “uneducated woman” can be. I feel humbled in comparison, and me with every chance to learn creativity via our nice higher education system. Is it not creative to overcome day to day obstacles with acumen? An aluminum window was out of skew; I had spent probably an hour trying to solve it. She grabbed an egg beater from our electric mixer and said, there. It was fixed – she leveled the window with it and left it there.

Creativity isn't about inventing products. Life has been creative since the dawn of time and never produced a single tool. The Earth is not a toolbox or pantry, nor are its inhabitants its workforce. Everything works together for Life.

AI is a big deal to me, because my background in computers and computer-driven machines helps me see a bigger picture than a “trim tab” solution to waning job markets. Please believe me, we do not want to make a covenant with intelligence – artificial or otherwise. That is where the TED seems to go... to make a bargain with the very thing robbing us of our humanity (intellect over warmth). If we replace routine jobs making widgets for industry, with the anguish of processing humans decimated by industry, whose survival are we fostering?

The speaker promises, “AI is here to liberate us from routine jobs”

How many times have we heard this pitch?

We don't need liberation from routine jobs, we just want to be with one another and not have to post bail to do it

Apologies for the emotion... we are so much more than a solution.

--Lonny

Dr. Lonny Douglas Meinecke

<http://lmeinecke.com/>

*"Comparison is the thief of joy" – Theodore Roosevelt*

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever" - Mahatma Gandhi*

*"God guard me from those thoughts men think In the mind alone" - William Butler Yeats (A Prayer For Old Age)*

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**From:** M Hall (via [iptaskforce list](#))

**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 11:17 PM

**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com)

**Subject:** Re: IP--creativity reconsidered

When Tony posts his reflections, I am always eager to read them, and I inevitably learn from his writing and feel deep inspiration, thankfulness, and resonance. I am glad he reposted his *Transcend Media Service* article, "Some Thoughts on Creativity...and Life." It is beautiful and touching that he started with an appreciative description of his mother's creativity as she improvised, each time uniquely, the pasta sauce for an eagerly awaited family meal. Tony celebrated the creativity that is at the heart of being human and, in fact, of the lives of all creatures. I felt uplifted and thought about how his perspective is aligned with that of some other writers.

Regarding creativity, I thought of Ruth Richards' edited volume, *Everyday Creativity and New Views of Human Nature: Psychological, Social, and Spiritual Perspectives* (2007). Further, Tony's philosophy of lifeism, stands, I believe, as a further development of a lineage that includes, but is not limited to, Albert Schweitzer's philosophy in which reverence for life is the fundamental ethical principle and Erich Fromm's psychologically and socially inflected views on biophilia, versus necrophilia, as reflected in character and culture. A parallel in Tony's and Erich Fromm's writings is recognition of the destructiveness of homogenization, regimentation, control, reduction and elimination of diversity, and the move toward "massive and disproportionate levels of control." Tony cited relevant examples of the "pantheon of 'Big' in our world today." Alas, such domination by the "big" few over the disempowered many has gotten egregiously worse since the economist E.F. Schumacher wrote his relatively popular and intellectually influential, *Small Is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered* (1973).

Thanks, as ever, Tony, for the compassion, lucidity, cogency, relevance, comprehensive scope, and humaneness of your writings on lifeism and so much else.

Mitch Hall, PhD (*h.c.*), MA, E-RYT, YACEP, PPA  
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"Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in." (Leonard Cohen, 1934-2016, from his song *Anthem*)

ॐ Ahimsa paramo dharma. ॐ Mitch Hall, PhD (*h.c.*), MA, E-RYT,

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**From:** [Marc Pilisuk](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2018 3:58 AM

HI FRIENDS,

Adding to wonderful insights in this thread.

Consciousness was a late arrival in evolution. The complexities of matter and energy are as yet insufficiently understood. The species as well as tribes that have survived have found ways to be viable parts of their habitat. Our consciousness has served us best when it has recognized this interdependence and recognized that we can neither understand it completely or control it without unpredictable consequences. We have created know-how without the wisdom of whether and when to make it applicable to the viability of our species or of the ecology in which we are a part. We have created social, economic and political institutions that generate vast disparities in resources needed to enjoy life and to avoid preventable suffering. We have advanced technologies with the assumption that our task is merely to adapt to them rather than to determine whether their potential dangers outweigh their benefits (think toxic chemicals, nuclear weapons). When we experience the outrage of those least able to find livable conditions or meaningful work, we resort to theories of deficiency, in intelligence, authoritarian tendencies, race, absence creativity or motivation or poor education. The algorithms of artificial intelligence are now increasingly determining decisions that direct our future. If we are lacking in the humility to understand how little is stored in our consciousness about how to shape a viable destiny, how to hear voices unlike our own and how to cultivate our compassion, then I fear that we will, "intelligently" displace people and then end this remarkable experiment with life.

Peace,

Marc

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*The Hidden Structure of Violence: Who Benefits From Global Violence and War* by Marc Pilisuk and Jennifer Achord Rountree. New York, NY: New York Monthly Review, 2015. Released July 2015. [Order the book here.](#)

*Peace Movements Worldwide* (3 Volumes) by Marc Pilisuk and Michael Nagler (Eds). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger/ABC-Clio, 2011.

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From: **Ajmarsella** <[ajmarsella@gmail.com](mailto:ajmarsella@gmail.com)>

Marc Pilisuk's eloquent and passionate appeal to inspire and to increase consciousness as a resource force for advancing the human condition today are brilliant. Marc has been a constant voice for peace and justice, and a pioneer in identifying the specific "villains" who have assaulted lives and life. His books are classics.

To keep this important line of thinking and activism going on the IP Listserv, I add my thoughts.

I wish to add these thoughts which claim (argue) "consciousness" and "conscience" cannot be separated in their purpose and consequence.

"Conscience" cannot be separated from "consciousness," nor can "consciousness" from "conscience." What do I mean?

The very act of conscience seeking and making peace releases us from normal states of human existence. The release sanctions a "state of transcendence, a state of "consciousness," a new level of being. It is a release from an isolated self pre-occupation to an awareness of connection to each other and to the cosmos in which we live.

"Consciousness" compels exercising responsibilities, duties, and obligations to speak and to act for peace; implicit within "consciousness," is a moral impulse to advance and benefit the human condition. Inherent within this recognition, is the awareness "life is sacred!"

The splendor and majesty of "consciousness" is the liberation of our being. "Consciousness" brings a new way-of-knowing (i.e., epistemology), and new way of behaving (i.e., praxiology). It unleashes new ways of understanding human nature (i.e., ontology).

Can anything more be asked? "Conscience" and "consciousness" are the keys to awakening the human spirit, too long subdued and contained by comforts of convention. Peacemaking is the path! Discover its virtues! Join the icons of peace, finding in them, and with them, a transcendent vision and experience of the grandeur of life. Accept the "Call to Conscience."

**Anthony J. Marsella, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822**

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**From:** [Terrel Hale](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, August 18, 2018 3:36 PM

Keld Zeruneith's book, *The Wooden Horse: The Liberation of the Western Mind*, from Odysseus to Socrates assesses the emergence of consciousness comparing and contrasting Odysseus with Achilles and decking into both Arete and metis. It's a book full of information. It should be discussed when discussing consciousness in the Western context. I'd live to find an Eastern equivalent!

[Terrel Hale](#)

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**From:** [Paul T. P. Wong](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, August 18, 2018 3:44 PM

Thanks Tony for the inspirational posting.

Paul T. P. Wong, Ph.D., CPsych. ([www.drpaulwong.com](http://www.drpaulwong.com))

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