

**University of Manitoba – Department of Philosophy / School of Art
Theories of Creativity - Fall 2018**

Preparation-assignment 07 – for session Oct. Nov. 5th

Firstly: Prepare the text by **Michael Wheeler: Talking about more than heads. The embodied, embedded, and extended creative mind.**
Uploaded on UMLearn.

The text offers a critique of the “romantic/conventional” conception of creativity via reference to something that is a relatively new and hot topic within theories of cognition and mind: The “embodied” cognition (embodied, embedded and extended, to be more precise). The question is: What role does the fact that we as humans *have a body* and *interact physically* with the world play for our ideas of cognition, mind, and creativity? “Embodied cognition” also implies ideas of extended cognition – extending beyond the skull or the skin. The text advocates for an “embedded creativity” – pay attention to how this is defined - and en passant also talks a lot about musical creativity.

You will find references to texts we discussed, such as by Margaret Boden.

Please do upload your comments, questions, new ideas, associations, counter-arguments, observations etc. on UMLearn, as usual. – OR: Peak curiously into what others wrote about this text and comment on THAT ;-) !

Secondly, in the coming class we will talk further about the final paper, I will give more sample topics, and we will also address also the readings for the rest of the term. (Four more double-sessions to come.)

Thirdly, I will give an introduction to the material for the session after the next one (week after reading week): Thoughts on creativity by anthropologist and polymath Gregory Bateson – who is a favourite author of mine, from his from his *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. The whole book is uploaded on UMLearn, for you to peruse. I will assign next week specific texts from Section III, on Play, Fantasy and Schizophrenia. He relates creativity to “play”, logical fallacies (being a-logical or illogical intentionally, so to speak) and to mental disorders such as named schizophrenia (which is in fact not a *disorder* but an *alternative* order – you might feel reminded of David Bohm in this respect). This material is, I think, the most fascinating but also the most difficult to grasp, and I will offer more oral and written background-information.