A Critique of Creativity and Complexity

Deconstructing Clichés

Don Ambrose, Bharath Sriraman and Kathleen M. Pierce (Eds.)



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A Critique of Creativity and Complexity

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Edited by

Don Ambrose

Rider University, USA

Bharath Sriraman

The University of Montana, USA

and

Kathleen M. Pierce

Rider University, USA



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In the last decade the words "creativity" and "complexity" have proliferated in the learning sciences, the organisational sciences, economics, education and the humanities to the extent that they almost sound clichéd. School systems, policy documents, funding bodies and scientific foundations repeatedly invoke creativity and complexity in vision/mission statements and calls for research proposals. This has generated some benefits and problems. One of the benefits is the invigoration of interdisciplinary work pertaining to complex phenomena that cannot be understood from within the borders of insular disciplines. A drawback is the occasional misinterpretation of the nature and nuances of complex, adaptive systems. In this book, researchers and theorists from various disciplines critically examine disciplinary boundaries in relation to the terms "creativity" and "complexity" with the goal of moving beyond clichéd uses of these constructs. The book also includes chapters that apply concepts from complexity theory and creativity in a practical sense.

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