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Stream E: Cultural Change and Creativity in Science and the Arts

Title: Unleashing the 'creative imagination' in the domains of philosophy, science and art

Abstract: Within the vast trajectory of Western philosophical discourse resides an emergent theme that clearly associates the creation of new forms, the creation of new forms of being and the creation of new ways of thinking with the activity of the 'creative imagination.' Beginning with Kant's reference to the creative and imaginative power of the genius, this emergent theme clearly takes form within the philosophical writings of Johann Fichte and Cornelius Castoriadis. Inspired by Kant's revelations on the creative power of the imagination, both Fichte and Castoriadis describe the 'creative imagination' as an ontological power of the soul that creates ex nihilo—that creates out of nothing. As a power to create figures/ forms/ images out of nothing, the 'creative imagination' is fundamental to the ontology of being for it gives form to being and to the world. By tracing this emergent theme, this presentation will provide important insights on how to purposively unleash the power of the 'creative imagination' in order to create new forms, to create new forms of being and to create new ways of thinking within the domains of art, science, and philosophy.

Bio: As an Associate of the School of Culture and Communication in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne, Jodie continues to develop her research into conceptions of the imagination and the imaginary within Western philosophical thought. She holds a PhD in Social Theory, a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Learning and Leadership, all completed at the University of Melbourne. Her PhD dissertation was titled *The Imagination. The Seed of Indeterminacy in the Writings of Kant, Fichte and Castoriadis.*