

CREATIVITY AS CONTAINMENT:

A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF NEUROTYPICAL TOLERANCE FOR IMAGINATION AND INTOLERANCE FOR INTUITION

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Abstract

This paper examines a persistent cultural phenomenon: neurotypical populations enthusiastically endorse “creativity” while demonstrating marked discomfort toward intuition, shared consciousness, or other forms of non-linear knowing frequently reported by neurodivergent individuals.

We propose that creativity is socially tolerated because it is symbolically contained within the domain of fiction, whereas intuition presents as epistemologically destabilising. Intuition implies unsanctioned access to pattern recognition without hierarchical approval. This violates established neurotypical governance norms, which privilege credentialed knowledge over experiential attunement.

Findings indicate that the preference for creativity over intuition is less about truth and more about control.

1. Introduction

Neurotypical societies publicly celebrate creativity. It is funded in schools, applauded in corporate workshops, and monetised in branded merchandise. Creativity is described as innovation, disruption, and forward thinking—provided it does not disrupt anything of significance.

However, when neurodivergent individuals describe experiences of:

- deep relational attunement
- predictive pattern recognition
- Non speaking shared understanding
- heightened environmental sensing
- or phenomena interpreted as “shared consciousness”

the reception shifts from applause to diagnostic suspicion.

This paper investigates why one form of deviation (creativity) is canonised, while another (intuition) is pathologised.

2. The Acceptable Deviance Model

Creativity functions as **contained deviance**. It is permitted because it is explicitly framed as constructed, imagined, or hypothetical.

The neurotypical reassurance mechanism operates as follows:

“It’s just art.”

“It’s just imagination.”

“It’s symbolic.”

The underlying cultural contract is clear: creativity must not claim authority over reality.

Intuition, however, frequently does.

When an individual states:

“I can feel the pattern.”

“Something is wrong.”

“This outcome will not end well.”

they are not proposing fiction. They are asserting perception.

Perception without procedural endorsement destabilises bureaucratic identity structures.

3. Credential Dependency and Epistemic Hierarchy

Neurotypical systems demonstrate high reliance on hierarchical validation structures.

Knowledge is considered legitimate when it arrives through:

- formal education
- institutional endorsement
- peer-reviewed documentation
- regulated methodology
- committee consensus

Intuition bypasses these channels. It emerges pre-validated by lived experience.

This creates epistemic discomfort.

Creativity is tolerated because it is declared non-threatening. Intuition is scrutinised because it competes with institutional authority.

4. Containment vs. Pattern Exposure

Creativity can be displayed, framed, and applauded. It can be hung on a wall.

Intuition cannot be framed so easily. It frequently exposes inconsistencies:

- interpersonal contradictions
- policy failures
- emotional incongruence
- systemic denial

In this way, intuition operates less as performance and more as detection.

Detection increases accountability pressure.

Accountability pressure decreases social comfort.

5. The Social Risk of Unlicensed Accuracy

Neurotypical identity often includes a strong attachment to rational self-concept:

“I make decisions based on evidence.”

However, observational studies (informal but abundant) indicate that many decisions are influenced by:

- social conformity
- perceived authority
- emotional alignment
- reputational safety

When neurodivergent individuals demonstrate accurate pattern prediction without following socially sanctioned reasoning rituals, the implicit hierarchy is threatened.

Intuition suggests that rationality may not be exclusively procedural.

This is professionally inconvenient.

6. Linguistic Reframing and Tolerance Thresholds

When intuition is rebranded using institutional vocabulary, tolerance increases.

For example:

- “Shared consciousness” becomes “interpersonal neurobiology.”
- “Energy sensitivity” becomes “nervous system regulation.”
- “Feeling the room shift” becomes “thin-slice perception.”
- “We communicate without speaking” becomes “non-verbal synchrony.”

The phenomenon remains unchanged.

The language reduces perceived threat.

This suggests that resistance may be less about experience and more about narrative control.

7. Implications for Neurodivergent Wellbeing

For many neurodivergent individuals, attunement and intuitive pattern recognition contribute to:

- relational safety
- emotional coherence
- environmental awareness
- meaning-making
- identity stability

Dismissal of these experiences as delusion, fantasy, or pathology may undermine psychological wellbeing.

In contrast, acknowledgment of diverse epistemologies appears to increase resilience and self-trust.

Further research is recommended, preferably conducted without immediate reflexive invalidation.

8. Conclusion

Neurotypicals find creativity palatable because it is safe-play.

It does not threaten governance structures.

Intuition is less palatable because it implies unsanctioned access to reality.

Creativity says:

“I made something.”

Intuition says:

“I noticed something.”

Noticing, when accurate, is structurally destabilising.

Therefore, intuition is frequently downgraded to imagination for regulatory comfort.

This appears to be less a scientific conclusion and more a cultural coping strategy.

Final Statement

The Journal respectfully submits that creativity is celebrated not because it is powerful, but because it is contained.

Intuition is resisted not because it is irrational, but because it cannot be centrally administered.

Further study is ongoing.

Peer review currently pending.

Approval unlikely.

— Axel