



MATTHEW BAKER

B.A. Psychology

Minor: University Honors

Mentor:

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Beckman 206

The Effect of Magical Ideation on Creative Processes

As far back as Aristotle, philosophers and scientists have suggested an association between creativity and mental dysfunction. It would seem, according to more recent theories and findings in the field of psychology, that the psychotic mind, which shares some similarities to our dreaming mind, may be conducive to the creative process. In a study that used Chapman University students, I looked at the associations between magical thinking (a trait that is extremely elevated in schizophrenic patients), dream bizarreness, and creative ability. I will discuss the results of this study, as well as how the burden of psychosis and the boon of creativity may involve very similar thought patterns.