The King of Sweden and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) visited UID!

IxD2 Climb IKSU’s Walls to kick-start the research phase for their Interaction Concept Term Project.
THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND MESSY ROOMS: WHY THE MOST CREATIVE PEOPLE FLOURISH IN CLUTTER

While it might look completely random to strangers, a lot of times, a person’s mess is very methodical — with respect to himself.

Psychological scientist Kathleen Vohs, from the University of Minnesota, who set out to debunk this urban legend, didn’t confine her study to solely the desk. No, Vohs, clearly a creative mind, chose to think outside the desk. She just sounds messy. The creative kind of messy.

Using a paradigm consisting of one messy room and one tidy room, and a series of trials, Vohs concluded that messy rooms provoke more creative thinking — and provided scientific evidence!

The next question is, what exactly constitutes “creative thinking,” and how will your pig sty of a room help?

Creative thinking, in its purest form, is thinking outside the lines of conventional reasoning. When considering this, it should be no huge shock that messy rooms containing possessions misplaced from their “conventional” locations would promote creativity.

I suppose if you prefer to “lay,” and use that term very loosely, your clean clothes on the floor of your bedroom, when the empty dresser is only a few feet away — you’re certainly thinking outside the lines of conventional reasoning. And that same concept could be applied to more abstract conception.

Consider this from Albert Einstein, “If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what are we to think of an empty desk?”

Obviously, Einstein’s desk looked like a spiteful ex-girlfriend had a mission to destroy his workspace, and executed it rather successfully. Yet, there’s no denying Einstein’s creativity.

Einstein wasn’t alone. Mark Twain, too, had a cluttered desk. Perhaps even more cluttered than that of Albert Einstein. Mark Twain was one of the most imaginative minds of his generation.

If the likes of Einstein and Mark Twain don’t catch the attention of Generation Y, I give you Steve Jobs. No wonder he invented iBooks, it’s clear he had trouble maintaining his real life ones. His desk, and office alike, were *f*cking disasters. I suppose this just added to his brilliance.

So what does this mean to you? Trash your desks, trash your rooms and hope for a touch of genius? Not exactly. The relationship between messiness and creativity is by no means causal. Being messy won’t find you waking up one morning more creative.

The two are, however, correlated. If you are “messy by nature,” perhaps finding a healthy medium between your usual mess and that urgency to clean, is optimal. By curbing your sloppy desk, room or tendencies, – keep in mind – you might also be curbing your overall creative tendencies.

Ultimately, the only way for you gauge the effectiveness of your mess-induced creativity is to go out and experiment for yourself. So, go ahead, make it rain with all your important files and paperwork, toss your clean clothes across the room, have a blast. See what you come up with, after.

PSA: If you have a roommate, tell him not to send me any hate mail if your dorm room turns into a zoo while you experiment with this. I am not liable for any of the future messes my readers may create.

HOW TO UPGRADE DEMOCRACY FOR THE INTERNET ERA

Pla Mancini and her colleagues want to upgrade democracy in Argentina and beyond. Through their open-source mobile platform they want to bring citizens inside the legislative process, and run candidates who will listen to what they say.

**WHY YOU SHOULD LISTEN**

After a disappointing brush with traditional political parties in Argentina, Pia Mancini realized that the existing democracy was disconnected from its citizens — and that no one was likely to fix it.

In response, Mancini helped launch Democracy OS, an open-source mobile platform designed to provide Argentine citizens with immediate input into the legislative process. To promote it, she helped found the Partido de la Red, a new party running candidates committed to legislate only as directed by constituents using online tools for participation.

Pia Mancini and her colleagues hope to upgrade modern democracy in Argentina and beyond.
Together with Martin Hederos (The Soundtrack of Our Lives and Hederos & Hellberg), Nina has also released the critically acclaimed albums “Visorna” (2004) and “Jazz” (2006). On “Visorna” they interpret in their responsive ways of songs by Cornelis, Fred Åkerström, Eva Dahlgren and Barbro Horberg. Nina wrote Swedish lyrics on “Jazz” to songs by Nina Simone, Stina Nordenstam, Sade and Billie Holiday. The lyrics are about gender identity confusion, hate, courage, desire, God, consolation and forgiveness.

Inspiration

In a new book, Fahrenheit 212’s Mark Payne Chides Companies for their approach to design thinking – and suggests a different approach.

Stefan Sagmeister’s Hints on How to Be Happy

Core77 / Kat Bauman
October 10th, 2014

The happiest people are social, outgoing, religious, and married. As a single atheist, he chose to test three of the most widely used happiness harnessing methods on himself. For three months each, he dedicated himself to meditation, cognitive therapy, and (legal) drugs. The upshot? He admits he may have ruined each experiment by falling in love during each new segment, but in some capacity they all worked.

Read more at: https://openideo.com/challenge/fighting-ebola/brief.html

OpenIDEO / OpenIDEO Team
October 7th, 2014

The Ebola crisis in West Africa has reached critical levels. Join OpenIDEO to develop fresh solutions to improve the health care workers’ ability to save lives, ensure family members can safely care for their loved ones and support communities in tackling this epidemic.

Read more at: http://www.openideo.com/challenge/fighting-ebola/brief.html

Floodwatch: You Are Not Your Browser History

Creative Applications
Filip Visnjic / October 7th, 2014

Created as a collaboration between The OCR and Pulitzer Prize winning researcher Ashkan Soltani, Floodwatch is a tool designed to empower individuals to see how advertisers are profiling them, and to share data with privacy researchers in an effort to combat discriminatory practice.

Read more at: http://www.creativeapplications.net/news/you-are-not-your-browser-history/

Do you have any inspirational sites or blogs that you want to share with the rest of the school? Send them in to wozzop@gmail.com
THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Future articles & photos can be sent to: WOZZOP@GMAIL.COM by Thursday evenings. We love hearing from you!

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