Creativity, Humor, and Talent May be Independent of EF

Beth Krone, PHD

An interesting new work on the neuroscience of humor, creativity, and spontaneous associations suggests these are the product of different brain regions than those generally through to be controlling executive functions.

Executive functions, which are often weaker among people with ADHD, contribute to significant impairments in planning, organizing, making healthy or positive choices, and getting things done. Some very gifted and talented people with ADHD present with these ‘EF’ problems, yet still produce outstanding works of creativity.

The authors of this new research find that people who rely mainly on ‘EF’ regions in the prefrontal cortex to complete humor or creative tasks produce lower quality humor and creative products. Higher quality creative works and humor, they found, were products of the temporal regions of the brain. This may shed some light on the processes behind giftedness and talent among people with ADHD.