self-guided isostimulant hetero-experientialism

tentative definition

Staas de Jong, 2014-02-16, Leiden.

• *Art:* the phenomenon where a human creates a set of possible experiences for a human.

• *Isostimulant hetero-experiential:* using the same stimulus to induce, over repeated exposures, different experiences within the same individual.

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As a physical process, any human experience may be regarded as strictly unique: as different from all others. Subjectively, comparison between experiences is possible, based on a range of human capacities. These include perception, memory, emotion, cognition, anticipation, and others. The outcome of such comparison may be that different experiences appear quite similar, or indeed, appear quite different.

This type of comparison may also happen in situations where (I) the same stimulus is used multiple times and (II) the experiencing individual knows this. Then, the subjectively apparent differences and similarities may point to what are specific aspects of the process of experiencing the stimulus.

Moreover, this (isostimulant, hetero-experiential) process of discovery may become self-guided, if it is made easy for the experiencing individual to consciously and at leisure, variably direct attention at available identical stimuli. (This may also include making easy the execution of any (motor) actions that are necessary to support directed attention.)

Such a self-guided, isostimulant, hetero-experiential approach is interesting and exciting because it can be used to find answers to questions about the set of possible human experiences. Instead of indirectly, via words, the approach allows answers to such questions to be formulated directly, in terms of stimuli and induced subjective experiences.

More generally, self-guided isostimulant hetero-experientialism is interesting and exciting because it provides an explicit means of discovery, to any person anywhere, to subjectively find out more about the process of experiencing itself, which is the core of art.