

The Arts Cannot be Studied Scientifically (Disagree)

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Arts and science are often seen as polar disciplines, and it may be tempting to say that the arts cannot be studied scientifically. I will be arguing against this statement for the following reasons: 1) Arts and science are extremely interconnected, 2) The scientific method can be applied to any research question, and 3) The arts have been studied scientifically. Based on these reasons, I conclude that the arts have the same ability as science to be studied in a scientific manor.

The arts and science are so interconnected that it would be impossible to say that you can study one scientifically, and not the other. Aspects of the arts are constantly influencing scientific thought, and vice versa. A significant example of this is seen with cultural influences. Culture, which is primarily an expression of the arts, is a big leading factor in the way we think. This includes, but is not limited to, scientific thought. If you are studying aspects of science which have cultural influences, then you are consequently studying the arts. It follows that scientifically studying something with artistic influences is studying the arts scientifically.

The scientific method has the ability to be applied to any research question, including those in the field of the arts. As described in *Scientific Method in Brief*, the basic scientific method is composed of a hypothesis formation, hypothesis testing, logic, controlled experiment, data theory, and a description of the limits (Gauch, 2012). Just because something is not scientific in nature does not mean that it can't be studied scientifically. Clearly, this method can be applied to any research question in which a hypothesis is formulated, and an experiment is possible.

My last argument against the claim that the Arts cannot be studied scientifically is that the Arts *have* been studied scientifically. There are numerous examples of this, but the one I will be talking about is a study on the self-perceptions of creativity over time. This study hypothesized that there are self-perceived changes in creativity over time. The method was to conduct interviews of the participant's self-perceptions of their creativity. The data was collected and analyzed, and conclusions drawn based on the data (Reed, 2005). This study clearly follows the scientific method outlined, and provides a strong example of the arts being studied in a scientific manor.

References

Gauch, Hugh G. *Scientific Method in Brief*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Reed, Irene C. "Creativity: Self-Perceptions over Time." *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, vol. 60, no. 1, 2005, pp. 1–18., doi:10.2190/wm5y-fhem-cxqt-uexw.