

University of Groningen

ADHD and the power of generalization

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2019

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

te Meerman, S. (2019). ADHD and the power of generalization: exploring the faces of reification. [Groningen]: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

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ADHD and the power of generalization

Exploring the faces of reification

Sanne te Meerman

3d Cover art: “Vampyrette Deluxe”, Johnny Kortlever, 2002 (private collection).

This artwork shows a figure that inflates when it is watched or approached by someone until it reaches the restraints of the glass encasement it resides in. When I was writing my thesis, the way some scientists inflate their findings made me think of this artwork. The transparent, glass ‘container’ of the scientific enterprise hopefully stops the scientists from exaggerations. However, I remember the tension, when I saw the artwork for the first time. As the noisy motor (from a vacuum cleaner) pushed the figure against the glass, I wondered: is the glass box solid enough?

However, as I talked to Johnny about it, I learned he himself had associations with Sartre when he conceived the work: “The Other’s look fashions my body in its nakedness, causes it to be born, sculpts it, produces it as it is, sees it as I shall never see it.” (Sartre, 1943, Being and Nothingness).

Johnny turned photographs from the artwork into a 3D picture that he remembered enjoying when he was a child. And when I showed it to others, they again had a completely different interpretation from Johnny’s or mine. There is not one true meaning ‘out there’ (or is there?). So, what do you think it means? Or, perhaps a better question would be, what does it mean to you?

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Artwork: Johnny Kortlever

Layout and design: Jesse Haaksman, persoonlijkproefschrift.nl

Printed by: Ipskamp Printing, proefschriften.net

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ISBN: 978-94-034-1655-7

ISBN: 978-94-034-1654-0 (electronic version)



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen

ADHD and the power of generalization

Exploring the faces of reification

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor aan de
 Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
 op gezag van de
 rector magnificus prof. dr. E. Sterken
 en volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties.

De openbare verdediging zal plaatsvinden op
 Donderdag 20 juni 2019 om 14.30 uur

door

Sanne te Meerman

geboren op 21 maart 1975
 te Nijmegen

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Table of contents

Chapter 1: General Introduction	8
Chapter 2: ADHD and the power of generalization	18
Chapter 3: Biomedical bias in academic textbooks	32
Chapter 4: Academic textbooks on ADHD genetics: balanced or biased	54
Chapter 5: ADHD: A critical Update For Educational Professionals	72
Chapter 6: ADHD and the faces of reification	84
Chapter 7: Discussion and Conclusion	108
References	129
Appendix A	149
English Summary	154
Samenvatting (in Dutch)	160
About the author	164
About the artist & artwork	165
Acknowledgements (Dankwoord)	168

