



THIS IS RESEARCH

Creativity: Transformation of Adversity

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This research explores creativity as the transformation of adversity by communities that live in conditions of ongoing crisis in Zimbabwe. The research demonstrated how individuals expressed creative resilience despite extreme socio-economic and political uncertainty. This image depicts artist Dexter Nyamainashe with his Spectacular Machine. Dexter lost his job as a municipal tree-cutter and re-invented himself as an artist, creating elaborate mechanical sculptures from discarded waste materials he found in the street. This research repositions ideas on creativity and expands our understanding beyond the classical (colonial) confines of psychology, art, and organization. It demonstrates how creative agency is enacted in unanticipated spaces by people who are normally discounted as being creative or productive. Equally, it facilitates a greater appreciation of the ways that people sustain their livelihoods in crisis, and the substantial contributions they make to social and economic productivity.

Dexter is depicted in this poster because he wanted his work to be shared with everyone!

