

# Introduction to the Special Issue *The Psychology of Creative Performance and Expertise* by Kathryn J. Friedlander

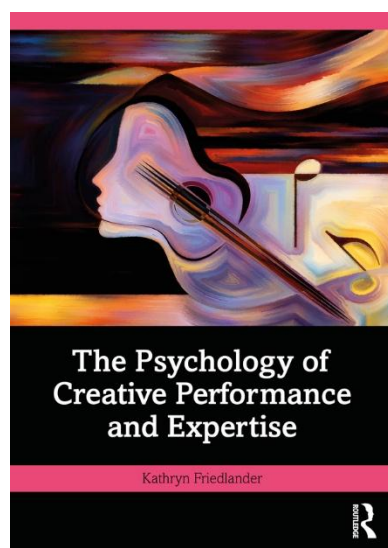
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Journal of Expertise  
2025, Vol. 8(4)  
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ISSN 2573-2773

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Throughout the history of psychology, creativity and expertise have largely been studied as separate topics. There are scholars of creativity and scholars of expertise—but rarely are the two examined together. This division is as puzzling as it is unfortunate, because most great accomplishments depend on both. Consider science: Einstein required deep expertise in theoretical physics to formulate the general theory of relativity, but he also had to move beyond the boundaries of established knowledge. The same is true of domains such as art, dance, and theater.

Against this backdrop, we are delighted to present a special issue of the *Journal of Expertise* devoted to Kathryn Friedlander's book, *The Psychology of Creative Performance and Expertise* (2024, Routledge). With a focus on performing arts, the book represents the first systematic attempt to integrate theories of creativity and expertise into a unified account of exceptional performance.

The issue is designed to be read as a scholarly conversation between Dr. Friedlander and eminent contributors from both the creativity and expertise communities. Following the *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* “target article” model, the issue is organized into three parts: a précis of the book by Dr. Friedlander, commentaries by leading scholars from both traditions, and a response to the commentaries. Together, these exchanges illuminate the complex interplay between creativity and expertise and point toward an integrated framework for understanding the highest levels of human achievement.

Note: *The Psychology of Creative Performance and Expertise*, by Kathryn J. Friedlander, was published by Routledge on 22nd August 2024, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003259428>