

Subjectivity, Embodiment and Spatialization in Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Till Grohmann

Université de Toulouse Jean Jaurès – Universität Heidelberg

Abstract

The present paper is a general reflection upon autistic embodiment and the way an altered body schema might determine a completely different kind of subjectivity. It is a general lack of contemporary research in the field of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to consider cognitive and sensomotoric disorders merely isolated and in terms of local dysfunctions, as if they would pertain to a general psychological structure that remains unaltered. For phenomenology, on the contrary, there is no such psychological structure disconnected

from the concrete experience in which it is revealed. Fundamental disturbances in the sphere of the live body must necessarily affect the structure of subjectivity itself. The purpose of this paper is to stress a first outline of such a positive understanding of autism, namely regarding autistic body- and world-perception.

Keywords

autism, subjectivity, phenomenology, embodiment, psychoanalysis, space, body schema, intentionality, kinesthesia

