

Hajo Seng: How Workshops „Autistic Skills“ Succeed, 2018

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Pictures:

all pictures: Hajo Seng

- except:
- p. 4: Leif Ekblad, Aspie Quiz, <http://rdos.net/eng/Aspie-quiz.php>
 - p. 5: Temple Grandin, 2010
 - p. 11: Broken mirror, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/broken-mirrors-a-theory-of-autism/>
 - p. 13: Vaughn, Hector William, Photograph of a baby standing in front of a mirror
 - p. 15: „An Anthropologist on Mars“, Oliver Sacks
 - p. 17: Wikimedia: Honoré Daumier: Dandy, 1871
 - p. 21: Wikimedia: Berthe Marie Pauline Morisot: La psyché, 1876
 - p. 28: Duke Nukem Forever, <https://game.watch.impress.co.jp/docs/news/425969.html>
 - p. 29: „Information Overload“, Pietro Zanarini

How Workshops

„Autistic Skills“ Succeed

living with autism

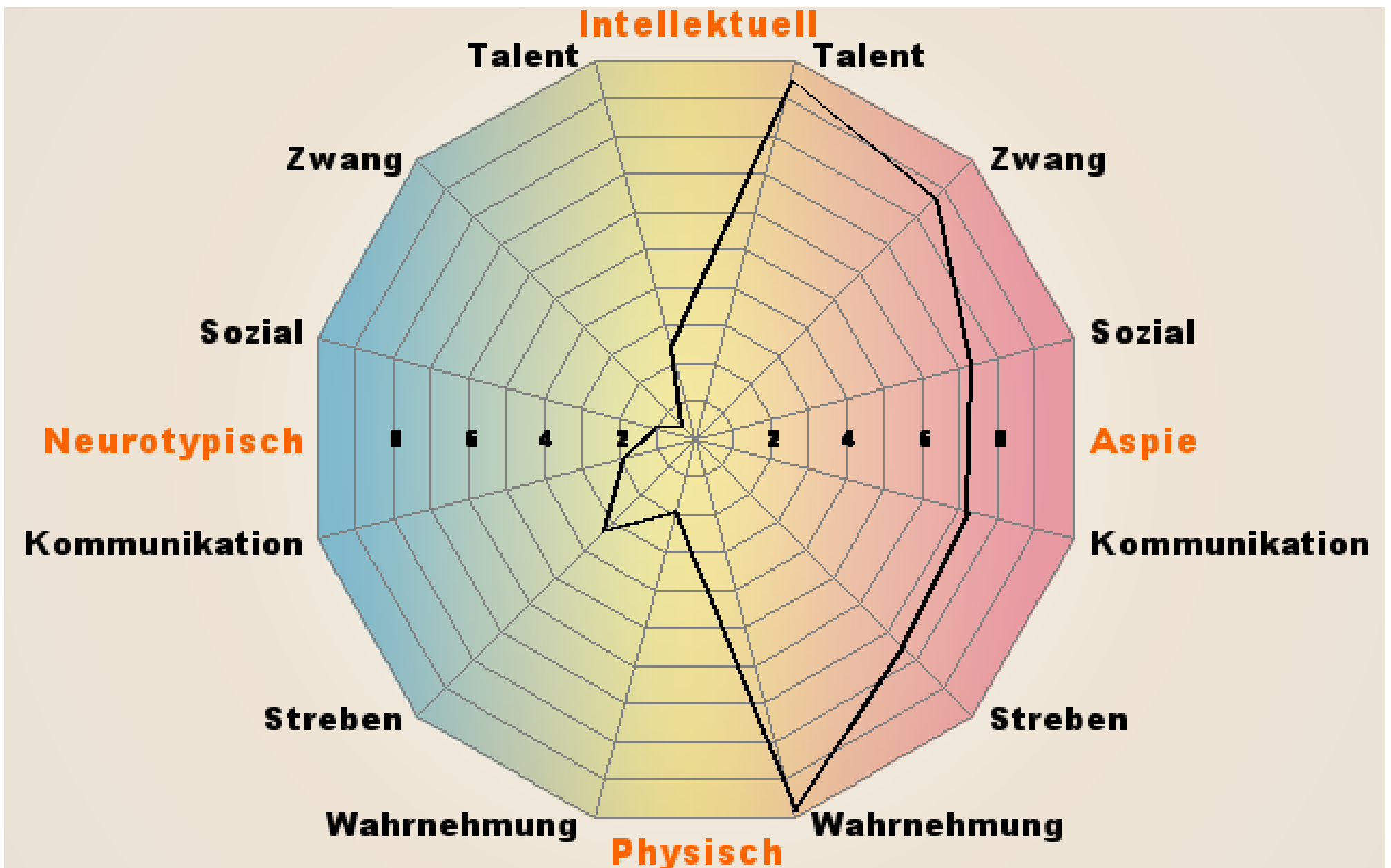


living as an autist



living in a non-autistic world

**every-one lives with autism,
because autism belongs to mankind**



„spectrum human being“ (Gee Vero)

Living as an autistic person:

experiences of autistic humans



employment history (1)

**development of a promising hospital-software during
community service**

career as software developer afterwards

promotion to project manager

excessive demands, burn-out, unemployment

co-founder of autWorker

**contract worker of autWorker, own flat, further
contracts**

employment at auticon (autistic company)

change to a big company

employment history (2)

working as discjockey and event manager

**chronical disease, „dropped out“ of unemplyment agency:
no unemployment money, no job placement**

contact with autWorker shortly after start of project

**minor job at autWorker: bureau-job, planning
and organising of events**

part-time job (75%) at autSocial

**increasing uncertainty because of a lack of job garanties,
permanent inability of work**

dismissal because of termination of the company

unemployed since then

employment history (3)

Krise nach Abitur, diverse Jobs, abgebrochenes Studium

Zivildienst mit schwerst-mehrfach behinderten Jugendlichen

Mathematikstudium, Arbeit mit behinderten Menschen (Jobs)

diploma in mathematics, beginning a PhD in history of mathematics

employment as programmer, shortly later self-employed

autWorker project, employment at the university library



employment history (4)

mother of three children

co-founder of autWorker

children were grown up

stamped as unplaceable in employments

**employment at autWorker: executive management,
organisation of camps and housing projects
trainings for personnel**

dismissal because of termination of the company

**minor jobs in conflict management, classroom assistance
personnel trainings**

employment history (5)

low school degree, job training center, considered not to be suitable for regular labour market

co-founder of autWorker

caught up on higher school degrees

academic studies in economics

minor jobs at autSocial, book-keeping

diverse hands-on trainings and minor jobs in book-keeping

attempted employment at autSocial

master degree in economics

mirror oneself within others

theory of mind

being alien

exclusion

discrimination

**autistic humans often see
themselves within others
like within a distorting mirror**



mirror oneself within others

suitable ways of living

suitable niches

learning about own skills and potentials

feeling at home

**autistic humans often have only
little opportunities to mirror
themselves in people like them**

mirror oneself within others

positive mirroring



mirroring opportunities

mirroring within others:

within autistic humans

within autistic experiences

within autistic living

**an adequate communication can only be developed
within a joint expedition.**

Before we start with a joint expedition it's important

**that we don't have any expectations by our
own**

**whatever happens within the next moment
is completely open**

(Christel Manske)

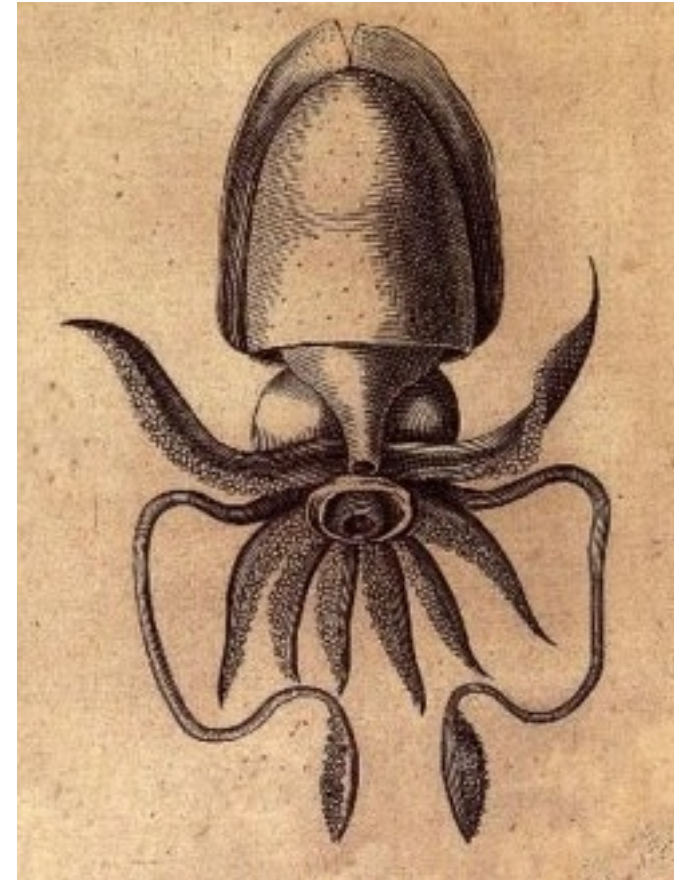
my world is a research field

principles of autistic perceiving and thinking

**focus on details instead on
concepts**

**autistic humans are
bottom-up-thinkers**

**they experience their socialisation
as a research within an
alien world**



they are „anthropologists on mars“

a shared research field

principles of a discovering social research

approach: bottom-up – form experiences to theory

aim: getting knowledge

finding the unexpected

attitude: open, unbiased, interested

method: qualitative, discovering

analysing by structuring

interplay between experience and theory

perspective-taking

a shared research field

change of perspectives

oneself – others

moderator – participants

theory – experiences

written – spoken

seeing – hearing

outside – inside



experiences with autistic communication

open-minded

without judgement

interested

reflecting



introspektion as research method

an autistic research field

the first minutes decide if a communication environment appears as barrier-free or not

free from being misunderstood

hidden purposes

being judged

an autistic research field

interplay between structured and open space:

let a discussion run (wherever it goes) ...

... and catch it again

breaks are most important ...

... because they are open

development of topics:

changing the focus from WHAT to HOW

leads you from interests to thinking-styles

research field skillsworkshop

principles of the workshops

approach: bottom-up – starting with participants

basics:

all participants are interested

learning and teaching (all)

clear topic

clear conditions

clear communication setting

two perspectives: self & others



research field skillsworkshop

openness of research ↔ openness of researcher



all participants are researchers



openness of the workshop

starting point:

interests



resulting perspectives



what → how



perception-, thinking- and learningstyles

research field skillsworkshop

if autistic people recognise a
communication situation as **save**

and if the topics of the workshops
are of **interest**

this communication situation becomes
a nearby perfect **research field**

all you have to do is: **pick it up**

example

1. talking about interests

Participant: „I have no unterests“

„I‘m only in first-person shooters“

Moderator: „Tell me about those computer games“

Participant: talks about his computer games
very detailed

talks about the pictures,
not about the game

example

2. from computer games to picture memory

Moderator: „You remember each detail;
can you see the pictures
you are talking about?“

Participant: „Yes I can see them as if I were
sitting in front of the computer“

Moderator: „You have an excellent memory
which works on pictures“

example

3. from picture memory to picture thinking

Participant: „I‘m playing ego-shooters to get rid of my tensions“

Moderator: „I think remembering pictures instead of words is extremely powerful but can be extremely threatening because of the amount of informations you have to deal with“

example

4. picture thinking and sensory overloads

Participant: „I remember lots of informations without having a control“

„I feel threatened of too much information“

„It makes me feel tensioned“

Moderator: - (there's nothing more to say)

characterising his thinking-style

Interests: ego-shooters

Thinking-style: picture thinking

Characteristic: precise, very good picture memory

Special interest: none

Leading perception: visual

Memory: extremely good

Concentration: bad

Openness: emotional

Overloads: yes

speaking in pictures





„information overload“

aut**Worker**

Arbeit anders denken

