

**Autism as a Mode of Being**  
**Contemporary Clinical Approaches to Autism**

**Lesson Plan**

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| <b>Session 1</b> | <b>Autism as a Mode of Being</b><br>Autism as part of what someone <i>is</i> rather than something someone <i>has</i> . The Disparity between the scientific approach to autism and the way autistic people talk about their autism. The politics of autism: Neurodiversity. |
| <b>Session 2</b> | <b>Aetiology in the Psychoanalysis of Autism</b><br>Going beyond “blaming the mother”. The spontaneous reaction to the trauma of language. Autistic sign language. How can one listen to autistic people without forcing their way of listening on them?                     |
| <b>Session 3</b> | <b>Autism and the Voice</b><br>The challenge of speaking when one already knows a language. Selective mutism vs. developmental approaches. Speaking vs. writing. The voice and the drive in psychoanalysis. Autistic testimonies and autobiographies as a mode of treatment. |
| <b>Session 4</b> | <b>Building a Language with Images</b><br>Working with autistic children in the context of art therapy. Building new words, constructing new concepts. Artistic vocabulary in autistic art. Subjective transformations through art.  |