

Alexander Porto

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

philosophy of language, cognitive linguistics, spontaneous semantics, social cognition, sound symbolism, philosophy of logic

EDUCATION

Duquesne University, 2022 — ongoing
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Duquesne University, 2022 — 2023
M.A. Clinical Psychology

Universität Leipzig, 2018 — 2020
M.Sc. Early Childhood Research (Developmental Psychology & Cognitive Anthropology)
Thesis: A Critical Theory of Childhood Research: Perspectives on Reification, Normativity, and Objectivity
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Kristina Musholt & Prof. Dr. Patricia Kanngießer

Point Park University, 2011 — 2015
B.A. Psychology
Thesis: Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Universität Leipzig 2021 — 2022
Predoctoral Fellow
Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology 2021 — 2022
Guest Researcher
Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition

Universität Leipzig 2019 — 2020
Graduate Research Assistant
Project: Emotions & Social Cognition
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Robert Hepach

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology 2019 — 2020
Research Internship
Project: Social Learning in Austronesian Cultures
Supervisors: Dr. Roman Stengelin & Dr. Sarah Peoples

Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago 2017 — 2018
Clinical Research Associate
Project: Transition Experiences for Youth with Spinal Cord Injury

PUBLICATIONS

Porto, A., Basalyga, A., Huckle, N., Santiago, J., Fein, E., Kranjec, A. (2024). Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3xc6659p>.

Brar, P., Pienkos, L., **Porto, A.,** Wood, H., Sarpal, D., Schreiber, J., Kalarchian, M., Kranjec, A. (2024). Methods and Models for Investigating Anomalous Experiences in Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders. *Philosophical Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2024.2305232>.

Contributions: Wrote section on network modeling; general consulting on manuscript development

Porto, A. (under review). Probabilistic claiming as meta-comparative practice. [Link to draft]

Porto, A. (under review). Antidescriptivist psychological nominalism as phenomenological semantics. [Link to draft]

Porto, A. (2023). A Picture Theory of Symbolic Development in Early Childhood. *Theory & Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/09593543231192973>

Porto, A., Anderson, L., Kalinich, T., Deane, K. C., Vogel, L. C., & Zebracki, K. (2019). Understanding transition for youth with spinal cord injury: Youth and caregiver perceptions. *The Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine*, 1-7.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10790268.2019.1574437>

CONFERENCES

Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

COGSCI 2024

Cognitive Science Society

July 2024

Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

IMPRS 4th Conference on Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Language Sciences

International Max Planck School for Language Sciences

June 2024

Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

The Developing Communicators Conference 2024,

University of Oslo

— accepted; unable to attend

May 2024

Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

15th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science: Memory, Space, Language

Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia

— accepted; unable to attend

May 2024

The Picture Theory of Symbolic Development in Early Childhood

15th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science: Memory, Space, Language

Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia

— accepted; unable to attend

May 2024

Positive and Negative Predication: Distinction Through Unity

Joint Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Coalition for North American Phenomenologists

& The Society of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences

Duquesne University

May 2024

The Picture Theory of Symbolic Development in Early Childhood

Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

Duquesne University

April 2024

Drawing Connections: Ideas and Applications of Expressive Activity in the Clinic

Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology

Duquesne University

— Workshop with Cathleen Flynn & John Dall'Aglia

April 2024

The Picture Theory of Symbolic Development in Early Childhood

Conference of Multimodality in Early Interactions for ECRs

University of Warwick

—accepted; unable to attend

April 2024

Reified Childhood: Social Reification During Child Development

Emory Symposium for Psychoanalysis & Politics

Emory University

October 2022

Barriers in accessing adult healthcare for transitioning youth with spinal cord injury

72nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine

— with Anderson, L., Zebracki, K., Deane, K., & Vogel, L.

May 2018

Barriers in accessing adult healthcare for transitioning youth with spinal cord injury

57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society

— with Anderson, L., Zebracki, K., Deane, K., & Vogel, L.

June 2018

Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments

Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Div. 32)

April 2015

Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments

Sixth Annual Point Park University Undergraduate Qualitative Research Conference

March 2015

TEACHING

Introduction to Psychology

Duquesne University

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Psychological Disorders (Teaching Assistant)

Duquesne University

Spring 2023

Laboratory in Psychology (Teaching Assistant)

Duquesne University

Fall 2022

Empirical Methods in Early Childhood Research II (Teaching Assistant)

Universität Leipzig

Spring 2018

AWARDS & FUNDING

Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award

Universität Leipzig

Research funding: 15,600€

2021 — 2022

Full Scholarship

Capra Course: The Systems View of Life (Schumacher College & Fritjof Capra)

2019 — 2020

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Student

Fall 2023

University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy

Sellars as a Metaphysician: Norms and Nature, Appearance and Reality

Invited by Robert Brandom

Member

Cognitive Science Society

Member

American Society for Cybernetics

Reviewer

Journal of Humanistic Psychology

Reviewer

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Practicum

Duquesne University

Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic

275 Hours (15 July 2024)

COMPETENCIES

- **Programming:** R, SPSS, Pure Data, OpenPose, GitHub, OpenMusic, Jupyter Notebooks, ChucK, lab.js, HTML, Qualtrics, Python, L^AT_EX
- **Languages:** English (Native Language), German (CEFR B2-C1), French (CEFR A2)

REFERENCES

Dr. Alexander Kranjec

Department of Psychology, Duquesne University
email: kranjeca@duq.edu
Relationship: PhD Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Kristina Musholt

Department of Philosophy (Chair of Cognitive Anthropology), Leipzig University
email: kristina.musholt@uni-leipzig.de
Relationship: Master's Thesis Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Patricia Kanngiesser

School of Psychology, University of Plymouth
email: patricia.kanngiesser@plymouth.ac.uk
Relationship: Master's Thesis Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Robert Hepach

Oxford Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford
email: robert.hepach@psy.ox.ac.uk
Relationship: Former Research Supervisor