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
Dissertation (in progress): Sound Symbolism, Writing Systems, and Spontaneous Semantics
Supervisor: Alexander Kranjec, PhD

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

Duquesne University, Dept. Psychology
Community-Based Psychology Fellow   2022 — 2023

Duquesne University, Dept. Psychology
Graduate Research Assistant   2022 — 2023

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

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—comments welcome]

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
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'Aglio 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

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

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Visiting Student Fall 2023
University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy
Sellars as a Metaphysician: Norms and Nature, Appearance and Reality
Invited by Robert Brandom Fall 2023
Member American Society for Cybernetics
Reviewer Journal of Humanistic Psychology
Reviewer Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

COMPETENCIES

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