

# Alexander Porto

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

## EDUCATION

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**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 POSITIONS

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**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

## PUBLICATIONS

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**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—revisions in process). Probabilistic claiming as meta-comparative practice. [Link to draft]

**Porto, A.** (under review). Naturalizing negation. [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>

## CONFERENCE & COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

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### **Naturalizing Negation: Responding to the Threefold Puzzle of Negation**

*Colloquium talk for Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy*

(Upcoming: December 2024)

### **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

## TEACHING

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### Statistics for the Psychological Sciences

Duquesne University

Spring 2025

### Research Methods in Psychology

Duquesne University

Fall 2024

### 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 2020

## AWARDS & FUNDING

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### 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

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### Organizing Member

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture

*jointly organized with Paul Pangaro*

#NewMacy In-Person Meetings

### Visiting Student

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

Invited by Robert Brandom

University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy (2023)

### Member

Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy

### Member

Cognitive Science Society

### Member

American Society for Cybernetics

### Reviewer

Journal of Humanistic Psychology

### Reviewer

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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### Clinical Practicum

Duquesne University

*Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic*

300 Hours (November 2024)

## COMPETENCIES

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- **Programming:** R, Python (PyGaze, PsychoPy), SPSS, Pure Data, OpenPose, GitHub, OpenMusic, Jupyter Notebooks, ChuckK, lab.js, HTML, Qualtrics, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- **Languages:** English (Native Language), German (CEFR B2-C1), French (CEFR A2)

## COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

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Alexander Kranjec  
Paul Pangaro  
Christine Cuskley  
Marcus Perlman  
Julio Santiago  
Robert Hepach  
Alexander Basalyga  
Nikolai Huckle  
Shantanu Tilak

## REFERENCES

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### **Dr. Alexander Kranjec**

Department of Psychology, Duquesne University  
email: [kranjeca@duq.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:robert.hepach@psy.ox.ac.uk)  
Relationship: Former Research Supervisor