

## Alexander Porto

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**Research Focus:** social cognition, spontaneous semantics, theoretical cognitive science, philosophy of mind & language

### EDUCATION

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<b>Duquesne University,</b> Ph.D. Clinical Psychology	2022 — ongoing
<b>Duquesne University,</b> M.A. Clinical Psychology	2022 — 2023
<b>Universität Leipzig,</b> 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	2018 — 2020
<b>Point Park University,</b> B.A. Psychology Thesis: Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments	2011 — 2015

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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<b>Universität Leipzig</b> <i>Predoctoral Fellow</i> Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition	2021 — 2022
<b>Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology</b> <i>Guest Researcher</i> Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition	2021 — 2022
<b>Universität Leipzig</b> <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> Project: Emotions & Social Cognition Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Robert Hepach	2019 — 2020
<b>Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology</b> <i>Research Internship</i> Project: Social Learning in Austronesian Cultures Supervisors: Dr. Roman Stengelin & Dr. Sarah Peoples	2019 — 2020

### 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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(†) invited

(\*) refereed

### Naturalizing Negation†

*Wittgenstein & the Formal Sciences IV,  
part of UNESCO World Logic Day*

January 2025

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

*Colloquium talk for Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy*

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*

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

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**TEACHING****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

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**AWARDS & FUNDING****Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award**

*Universität Leipzig* 2021 — 2022

**Full Scholarship**

Capra Course: The Systems View of Life (Schumacher College & Fritjof Capra) 2019 — 2020

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**et cetera****Organizing Member**

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture #NewMacy In-Person Meetings  
*jointly organized with Paul Pangaro*

**Visiting Student**

*Sellars as a Metaphysician: Norms and Nature, Appearance and Reality* University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy (2023)  
Invited by Robert Brandom

**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

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**et cetera, et cetera**

- **Programming:** R, Python (PyGaze, PsychoPy), SPSS, Pure Data, OpenPose, GitHub, OpenMusic, Jupyter Notebooks, ChucK, 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  
Luz Christopher Seiberth  
Julio Santiago  
Robert Hepach  
Alexander Basalyga  
Nikolai Huckle  
Joost Pietschmann  
Shantanu Tilak

## REFERENCES

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**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