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, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology Dissertation (in progresss): Sound Symbolism, Writing Systems, and Spontaneous Semantics Supervisor: Alexander Kranjec, PhD	2022 — ongoing
Duquesne University, M.A. Clinical Psychology	2022 — 2023
Universität Leipzig, 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
Point Park University, B.A. Psychology Thesis: Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments	2011 — 2015
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 Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition	2021 — 2022
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology Guest Scientist Project: The Production of Symbolic Communication During Language Acquisition	2021 — 2022
Universität Leipzig Graduate Research Assistant Project: Emotions & Social Cognition Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Robert Hepach	2019 — 2020
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Dept. Comparative Cultural Psychology Research Internship Project: Social Learning in Austronesian Cultures Supervisors: Dr. Roman Stengelin & Dr. Sarah Peoples	y 2019 — 2020
Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago Clinical Research Associate Project: Transition Experiences for Youth with Spinal Cord Injury	2017 — 2018

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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 Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems The Developing Communicators Conference 2024,	June	2024
University of Oslo — accepted; unable to attend	Morr	2024
Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems	May	2024
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	11100)	
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	0 + 1	2022
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	Μ	2010
— with Anderson, L., Zebracki, K., Deane, K., & Vogel, L. Barriers in accessing adult healthcare for transitioning youth with spinal cord injury	May	2018
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	June	2010
Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Div. 32)	April	2015
Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments	11pm	2010
Sixth Annual Point Park University Undergraduate Qualitative Research Conference	March	2015
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Alexander Porto 2024

TEACHING

Introduction to Psychology

Duquesne University Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Psychological Disorders (Teaching Assistant)

Duquesne University Spring 2023

Laboratory in Psychology (Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2022 Duquesne University

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)