

## 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 EXPERIENCE

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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

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

### 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). 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

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### 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*

May 2024

### Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

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

*Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia*

May 2024

— accepted; unable to attend

### 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*

May 2024

— accepted; unable to attend

### 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*

May 2024

*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

— Workshop with Cathleen Flynn & John Dall'Aglio

### The Picture Theory of Symbolic Development in Early Childhood

*Conference of Multimodality in Early Interactions for ECRs*

*University of Warwick*

April 2024

— 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

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<b>Introduction to Psychology</b>	
<i>Duquesne University</i>	Fall 2023, Spring 2024
<b>Psychological Disorders (Teaching Assistant)</b>	
<i>Duquesne University</i>	Spring 2023
<b>Laboratory in Psychology (Teaching Assistant)</b>	
<i>Duquesne University</i>	Fall 2022
<b>Empirical Methods in Early Childhood Research II (Teaching Assistant)</b>	
<i>Universität Leipzig</i>	Spring 2018

## AWARDS & FUNDING

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<b>Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award</b>	
<i>Universität Leipzig</i>	
Research funding: 15,600€	2021 — 2022
<b>Full Scholarship</b>	
Capra Course: The Systems View of Life (Schumacher College & Fritjof Capra)	2019 — 2020

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Clinical Practicum</b>	
Duquesne University	
<i>Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic</i>	275 Hours (15 July 2024)

## COMPETENCIES

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

## 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