

# Alexander Porto

alexanderporto@posteo.net — +1 (412) 540-6473 — www.alexanderporto.net

## 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  
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

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

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

**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 Scientist*  
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. (forthcoming — 2024). Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

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

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### Sound Symbolism Across Diverse Writing Systems

COGSCI 2024

July 2024

Cognitive Science Society

### 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

— 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

### 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., &amp; 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

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**TEACHING**

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**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

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**AWARDS**

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**Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award***Universität Leipzig*

2021 — 2022

**Full Scholarship**

Capra Course: The Systems View of Life (Schumacher College &amp; Fritjof Capra)

2019 — 2020

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**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Clinical Practicum***Duquesne University**Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic*

240.75 Hours (5 April 2024)

- **Relevant doctoral coursework:** Introduction to Psychotherapy, Introduction to Psychological Assessment, Clinical Approaches to Dreams, Clinical Formulation, Couples & Child Therapy, Ethics & Standards in Psychology, Approaches to Psychopathology, Psychology & Cultural Diversity, Advanced Assessment
- **Standardized Assessment:** MMPI-2, PAI, NEO PI-R, WAIS-IV, WISC-V
- **Projective Assessment:** Thematic Apperception Test, Draw-a-Person, R-PAS, Sentence Completion, House-Tree-Person

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**OTHER EXPERIENCES**

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**Visiting Student**

University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy

Fall 2023

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

Invited by Robert Brandom

**Member**

American Society for Cybernetics

**Reviewer**

Journal of Humanistic Psychology

**Reviewer**

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

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**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)