

## 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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**Organizing Member** 2024 — ongoing  
#NewMacy In-Person Meetings  
Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture / School of Design  
*jointly organized with Paul Pangaro*

**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>

## 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*

April 2024

— 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*

*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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|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>Statistics for the Psychological Sciences</b>                             |                        |
| <i>Duquesne University</i>   | Spring 2025            |
| <b>Research Methods in Psychology</b>  |                        |
| <i>Duquesne University</i>   | Fall 2024              |
| <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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### 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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### Visiting Student

University of Pittsburgh, Dept. Philosophy Fall 2023

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

Invited by Robert Brandom

### Member

Member

Member

Reviewer

Reviewer

Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy  
Cognitive Science Society  
American Society for Cybernetics  
Journal of Humanistic Psychology  
Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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### Clinical Practicum

Duquesne University  
*Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic* 275 Hours (15 July 2024)

## COMPETENCIES

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- **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)

## 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