

# Alexander Porto

alexanderporto@posteo.net | (412) 540-6473 | www.alexanderporto.net

## EDUCATION

---

<b>University of Birmingham (Dept. Linguistics &amp; Communication)</b> Ph.D. Linguistics Thesis: Iconicity and Systematicity in the Evolution of Communication Systems Across Modalities Supervisors: Marcus Perlman & Bodo Winter Funding: UKRI ESRC Midlands Graduate School DTP	2026–ongoing
<b>Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)</b> Clinical Practica and Ph.D. Coursework—Clinical Psychology	2022–2026
<b>Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)</b> M.A. Clinical Psychology	2022–2023
<b>Universität Leipzig</b> M.Sc. Early Childhood Research (Focus: Developmental Psychology & Cognitive Anthropology) Thesis: <i>A Critical Theory of Childhood Research</i> Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Kristina Musholt, Prof. Dr. Patricia Kanngießer	2018–2020
<b>Point Park University</b> B.A. Psychology Thesis: <i>Phenomenological Responses to Architectural Environments</i>	2011–2015

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS & EMPLOYMENT

---

<b>Universität Potsdam (Dept. Philosophy)</b> <i>Visiting Researcher</i> Project: Nodal Logic: Epistemology, Logic, and Argument Mapping	2025–present
<b>Universität Leipzig</b> <i>Predoctoral Research 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

---

- Porto, A.**, Huckle, N., Basalyga, A., Santiago, J., Kranjec., A. (2025). Glyph Norming: Human and Computational Measurements of Shape Angularity in Writing Systems. *Behavior Research Methods*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-025-02682-7>
- 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.**, Kranjec, A. (under review; draft and data available by request). Folk theories of perception structure language comprehension.

**Porto, A.** (under review; draft and data available by request). Inferential Mentalization.

**Porto, A.**, Pietschmann, J., Seiberth, L.C. (under review; draft and data available by request). Experimental Reanimation: Jumblese, Picturing, and Representational Systems.

**Porto, A.** (under review; draft available by request). Probabilistic claiming as meta-comparative practice.

**Porto, A.** (under review; draft available by request). Inference, Language, Situated Conceptualization.

**Porto, A.** (under review; draft available by request). Naturalizing Negation.

**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>

## PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

---

**Porto, A.**, Kranjec, A. (revisions in process). Novel Verbs Outperform Nouns in Artificial Language Learning.  
 Status: Data collected; data analyzed; manuscript in revision; abstract and data available by request.

**Porto, A.**, Huckle, N., Basalyga, A., Cuskley, C., Perlman, M., Kranjec, A. (in preparation). Sound-Form Iconicity in Spontaneously Produced Drawings.  
 Status: Data collected; data analyzed; manuscript in development; abstract and data available by request.

**Porto, A.**, Pietschmann, J., Seiberth, L.C. (in preparation). Jumblese, Picturing, and Representational Systems.  
 Status: Philosophical scoping review complete; manuscript written; two colloquium presentations; in informal peer review; abstract available by request.

## TEACHING

---

**Research Methods in Psychology** Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Spring 2026  
*Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)*  
 Description: Developed syllabus; delivered lectures; administered exams; graded coursework; provided undergraduate research mentorship.

**Statistics for the Psychological Sciences** Spring 2025  
*Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)*  
 Description: Designed new course for the department using R programming and open-source textbooks to create an undergraduate-appropriate intro to statistical programming for psychology; developed syllabus; delivered lectures; administered and graded portfolio exams.

**Introduction to Psychology** Fall 2023, Spring 2024  
*Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)*  
 Description: Developed syllabus; delivered lectures; administered exams; graded coursework.

**Psychological Disorders (Teaching Assistant)** Spring 2023  
*Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)*  
 Supervisor: Russ Walsh, Ph.D.  
 Description: Graded coursework and exams.

**Laboratory in Psychology (Teaching Assistant)** Fall 2022  
*Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology)*  
 Supervisor: Alex Kranjec, Ph.D.  
 Description: Provided undergraduate research mentorship; graded coursework.

## CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP & COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

---

(†) *invited*

(\*) *refereed*

Porto, A. (2026, May). *We-Intentions & I-Intentions*<sup>†</sup>. KU Leuven (Higher Institute of Philosophy) | Husserl Archives Leuven.

- Porto, A. (2025, October). *Interlocutor: Rules, Functions & Categories: A Workshop on Wilfrid Sellars*<sup>†</sup> [Invited Respondent]. Universität Paderborn.
- Porto, A., Pietschmann, J., Seiberth, L. C. (2025, April). *Jumblese, picturing, and representational systems*<sup>†</sup> [Invited presentation]. CO Haag | Universität Potsdam.
- Porto, A., Tilak, S., Pangaro, P., Glassman, M. (2025, August). *A lexical analysis of essays written using the ThoughtShuffler and Google search interfaces*\* [Conference presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention.
- Porto, A. (2025, January). *Naturalizing negation*<sup>†</sup> [Invited conference presentation]. Wittgenstein & the Formal Sciences IV, UNESCO World Logic Day.
- Porto, A. (2024, December). *Naturalizing negation: Responding to the threefold puzzle of negation* [Colloquium]. Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy.
- Porto, A. (2024, July). *Sound symbolism across diverse writing systems*\* [Conference presentation]. 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Porto, A. (2024, June). *Sound symbolism across diverse writing systems*\* [Conference presentation]. IMPRS 4th Conference on Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Language Sciences, International Max Planck School for Language Sciences.
- Porto, A. (2024, May). *Sound symbolism across diverse writing systems*\* [Conference presentation accepted]. The Developing Communicators Conference 2024, University of Oslo.
- Porto, A. (2024, May). *Sound symbolism across diverse writing systems*\* [Conference presentation accepted]. 15th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science: Memory, Space, Language, Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Porto, A. (2024, May). *The picture theory of symbolic development in early childhood*\* [Conference presentation accepted]. 15th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science: Memory, Space, Language, Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Porto, A. (2024, May). *Positive and negative predication: Distinction through unity*\* [Conference presentation]. Joint Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Coalition for North American Phenomenologists & The Society of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Duquesne University.
- Porto, A. (2024, April). *The picture theory of symbolic development in early childhood*\* [Conference presentation]. Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, Duquesne University.
- Porto, A., Flynn, C., Dall'Aglio, J. (2024, April). *Drawing connections: Ideas and applications of expressive activity in the clinic* [Conference Presentation]. Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, Duquesne University.
- Porto, A. (2024, April). *The picture theory of symbolic development in early childhood*\* [Conference presentation]. Conference of Multimodality in Early Interactions for ECRs, University of Warwick.
- Porto, A. (2022, October). *Reified childhood: Social reification during child development*\* [Conference presentation]. Emory Symposium for Psychoanalysis & Politics, Emory University.
- Porto, A., Anderson, L., Zebracki, K., Deane, K., Vogel, L. (2018, June). *Barriers in accessing adult healthcare for transitioning youth with spinal cord injury*\* [Conference presentation]. 57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society.
- Porto, A., Anderson, L., Zebracki, K., Deane, K., Vogel, L. (2018, May). *Barriers in accessing adult healthcare for transitioning youth with spinal cord injury*\* [Conference presentation]. 72nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.
- Porto, A. (2015, April). *Phenomenological responses to architectural environments* [Conference presentation]. Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Humanistic Psychology (APA Division 32).

## AWARDS, FUNDING & HONORS

---

<b>UKRI ESRC Midlands Graduate School DTP Studentship</b> University of Birmingham (Dept. Linguistics & Communication)	2026–2030
<b>Award for Excellence in Teaching</b> Duquesne University (Dept. Psychology) Honorarium: \$250.00	2025–2026
<b>Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award</b> Universität Leipzig Research funding: 15,600.00€	2021-2022

## PSYCHOTHERAPY & COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY

---

### Practicum Trainee

Aug. 2025–April 2026

*Carnegie Mellon University, Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS)*

Pittsburgh, PA

Clinical Supervisors: Stella Yan, Ph.D., Shane Chaplin, Ph.D., Grace Wei, Ph.D., NCC

### Practicum Trainee

Jan. 2022–April 2026

*Duquesne University, Rita M. McGinley Psychology Clinic*

Pittsburgh, PA

Clinical Supervisors: Kevin Smith, Ph.D., Liz Pienkos, Ph.D., Lori Koelsch, Ph.D., Jessie Goicoechea, Ph.D.

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP & ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

---

### Academic Consultant

2025–present

*Laboratory for Cybernetics*

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture

### Organizing Member

2024–2025

#NewMacy In-Person Meetings

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture

*jointly organized with Paul Pangaro*

### Visiting Student

Fall 2023

University of Pittsburgh (Dept. Philosophy)

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

Invited by Robert Brandom, Ph.D.

### Full Member

Young Network for Wittgensteinian Philosophy

### Student Member

Cognitive Science Society

### Full Member

American Society for Cybernetics

### Reviewer

Journal of Humanistic Psychology

### Reviewer

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation

## COMPETENCIES & LANGUAGES

---

- **Research Methods:** Experimental Design, Mixed-Methods Research, Computational Modeling, Data Analysis (Bayesian and Frequentist), Philosophical Analysis, Literature Review, Manuscript Development
- **Programming:** R, Python (PyGaze, PsychoPy, Pygame), jsPsych, SPSS, Pure Data, OpenPose, GitHub, OpenMusic, Jupyter Notebooks, ChuckK, lab.js, HTML, Qualtrics, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
- **Psychological Assessment:** MMPI-2, PAI, CCAPS, BDI/BDI-Y, BAI/BAI-Y, HAM-A, GAD-7, WISC-V, NEO PI-R/FFI, TAT SCORS-G System, Rorschach R-PAS, Sentence Completion, Bender-Gestalt, OQ-45
- **Therapeutic Modalities:** Phenomenological Psychotherapy, Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy, MBCT/CBT, DBT, Systemic Therapy
- **Supervision & Training:** Undergraduate Research Mentorship, Master's Student Supervision, Peer Consultation, Group Peer Consultation
- **Languages:** English (Native Language), German (CEFR C1), French (CEFR A2–B1)

**COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

---

Alexander Kranjec

Christine Cuskley

Marcus Perlman

Luz Christopher Seiberth

Julio Santiago

Robert Hepach

Alexander Basalyga

Nikolai Huckle

Joost Pietschmann

Paul Pangaro

Liz Pienkos

Shantanu Tilak

**REFERENCES**

---

**Dr. Alexander Kranjec**

Department of Psychology, Duquesne University  
email: kranjeca@duq.edu

**Dr. Marcus Perlman**

Linguistics and Communication, University of Birmingham  
email: m.perlman@bham.ac.uk

**Dr. Luz Christopher Seiberth**

Department of Philosophy, Universität Potsdam  
email: luz.christopher.seiberth@uni-potsdam.de

**Prof. Dr. Kristina Musholt**

Department of Philosophy (Chair of Cognitive Anthropology), Leipzig University  
email: kristina.musholt@uni-leipzig.de

**Prof. Dr. Patricia Kanngießner**

School of Psychology, University of Plymouth  
email: patricia.kanngiesser@plymouth.ac.uk

**Prof. Dr. Robert Hepach**

Oxford Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford  
email: robert.hepach@psy.ox.ac.uk