

Nicolas Porot

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Employment

Affiliate Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, 2025-

Assistant Professor (with tenure), Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, 2020-2025

Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre for Philosophical Psychology, University of Antwerp, 2019-20

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2019

Dissertation: *Some Non-Human Languages of Thought*

Visiting Assistant in Research, Yale University, 2018-19 Academic Year

Diploma of the École Normale Supérieure - Paris, 2016

Visiting Doctoral Student, Jean Nicod Institute, Spring 2016

Research Master, Cognitive Science, École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/École Normale Supérieure - Paris/Université de Paris V, 2013

B.A. Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 2010

Research and Teaching Areas

AOS: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

AOC: Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Cognitive Psychology

Publications

Porot, N. (in press). Belief is irreducible: Lessons from placebo research. in Neil van Leeuwen & Lombrozo, T. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of The Cognitive Science of Belief*. OUP.

Porot, N. & Mandelbaum, E. (in press). Belief: Dumb, Cold, & Cynical. in *What is Belief?* (E. Schwitzgebel, Ed.). OUP.

Porot, N., & Mandelbaum, E. (2025). The Language of Thought Hypothesis. In M. C. Frank & A. Majid (Eds.), *Open Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science*. MIT Press.
<https://doi.org/10.21428/e2759450.79b53c0b>

Devitt, M. & Porot, N. (2025). The New-Meaning Objection: Reply to D'Agruma. *Cognitive Science*, 49(1), e70036. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70036>

Tracy, R., Porot, N., Mandelbaum, E., & Young, S. (2023). Disfluency attenuates the reception of pseudoprofound and postmodernist bullshit. *Thinking & Reasoning*. Online first.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13546783.2023.2284406>

Quilty-Dunn, J., Porot, N., & Mandelbaum, E. (2023). The language-of-thought hypothesis as a working hypothesis in cognitive science. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 46, E292.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X23002431>

Quilty-Dunn, J., Porot, N., & Mandelbaum, E. (2023). The best game in town: The reemergence of the language-of-thought hypothesis across the cognitive sciences. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 46, e261. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X22002849>

Mandelbaum, E., Dunham, Y., Feiman, R., Firestone, C., Green, E. J., Harris, D., Kibbe, M. M., Kurdi, B., Mylopoulos, M., Shepherd, J., Wellwood, A., Porot, N., & Quilty-Dunn, J. (2022). Problems and Mysteries of the Many Languages of Thought. *Cognitive Science*, 46(12), e13225.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13225>

Porot, N., & Mandelbaum, E. (2020/2022). The science of belief: A progress report. *WIREs Cognitive Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1539>, reprinted with substantial additions in Musolino, J., Hemmer, P. (Eds.). *Cognitive Science of Beliefs: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009001021>

Mandelbaum, E., & Porot, N. (2022). How the Cognitive Science of Belief Can Transform the Study

of Mental Health. *JAMA Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.3611>
Devitt, M., & Porot, N. (2018). The reference of proper names: Testing usage and intuitions. *Cognitive Science* 42 (5), 1552-1585. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12609>

Shareable Papers in Progress

“Spinoza’s Return: Fluency Does Not Explain Illusory Truth” (first author; with Ryan Tracy, Steven Young, and Eric Mandelbaum)
“Evidence for Languages of Thought in Chimpanzees, Olive Baboons, and an African Grey Parrot”
“Symbolic Representation in Arthropods”
“Minds Without Spines: Multi-Stability as a Mark of the Mental”

Prizes, Awards and Fellowships

Ten Best Papers of 2022, *Philosopher’s Annual* (for “The Best Game in Town: The Re-Emergence of The Language of Thought Hypothesis Across the Cognitive Sciences”)
Prize winner (with Eric Mandelbaum), “What is Belief?” essay competition, organized by Eric Schwitzgebel, 2022, for “Dumb, Cold, & Cynical”
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2018-19
Mention bien for master’s thesis, École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, June 2014
Title: “Seeing Events in Static Images,” Advisors: Roberto Casati, Patrick Cavanagh
University of California, Los Angeles, 2010: *Magna cum laude*, College of Letters and Sciences Honors, Philosophy Department Honors

Teaching

Graduate and Professional:

Instructor: Scientific Debate Workshop, Master’s in Behavioral Science for Public Policy
Instructor: Executive Master’s for Public Leadership, Moroccan Ministry of the Interior
Guest lecturer: Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Belief (Julien Musolino, Pernille Hemmer)
Guest lecturer: CUNY Graduate Center, Non-Canonical Psychologies (Eric Mandelbaum)

Undergraduate:

Assistant Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University: Ethics & Decision (3x), Introduction to Psychology (2x), Experimental Psychology: Design and Data Collection (3x), Research Methods in the Social Sciences (5x)
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Brooklyn College: Introduction to Business Ethics (1x), Introduction to Philosophy (5x)
Lecturer, Medgar Evers College: Introduction to Logic (3x)
Lecturer, Baruch College: Philosophy and Psychology (1x)

Advising

Thesis supervision, Executive Master for Public Policy, Moroccan Ministry of the Interior (1x)
Undergraduate thesis supervision, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (11x)

Talks and Conference Presentations

“Structured Mental Representations,” Invited Symposium of American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York City, Jan. 2024
“The Best Game in Town: The Re-Emergence of The Language of Thought Hypothesis Across the Cognitive Sciences,” Workshop on the Language of Thought, Nantes University, July 2023; NYU Philosophy of Mind Group, Jan. 2023; Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Milan, July 2022
“Fluency Does Not Explain Illusory Truth,” Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Amsterdam, July 2022, Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Antwerp, May 2022; Society for

- Philosophy and Psychology, online, June 2021; Experimental Philosophy Group, Jean Nicod Institute, April 2021
- “Some Evidence for Languages of Thought in Chimpanzees, Baboons, and an African Grey Parrot,” SPP, online, June 2021; Upsalla Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, Oct. 2020; European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Athens, September 2019.
- “Testing the Usage of Proper Names,” Experimental Philosophy Lab, Yale, Oct. 2018; Invited Symposium on Experimental Semantics, Pacific APA, Seattle, April 2017; Experimental Semantics Workshop, University of Warsaw, Poland, April 2016
- “There Are No Holes in Conscious Vision,” ESPP, University of Hertfordshire, UK, Aug. 2017; ASSC XX, Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 2016; Perception Group Meeting, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, May 2016
- “New Data on Proper Names: Usage Supports Antidescriptivist Theories of Reference,” Experimental Philosophy Group, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, February 2016
- “Revised Methods for Testing Theories of Reference,” Workshop on Experimental Semantics Workshop, LOGOS, Barcelona, Feb. 2015
- “Multiple Object Tracking Is Not Evidence for Bare Demonstratives in a Language of Thought,” Cognitive Science Speaker Series, CUNY Graduate Center, July 2015
- “Holes in Memory, and How to Plug Them,” Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, April 2015; Cognitive Science Speaker Series, CUNY Graduate Center, Oct. 2014

Language Abilities

English (US), native; French (FR), native fluency; Arabic (Morocco): beginner; Dutch (BE): beginner

Professional Service

Event Organizing: Workshop on the Cognitive Science of Belief and Disinformation, UM6P, February 2024

Program Management: Director of Decision and Behavior minor at UM6P, 2023-

Curriculum: creation (with colleagues) of undergraduate and master’s programs in Behavioral Science for Public Policy; design of a two-year undergraduate writing course series

Student Resources: Co-director of the Writing Center at UM6P, Rabat Campus

Faculty Recruitment: hires in Philosophy and Psychology, Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences, UM6P 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

Admissions: Undergraduate and graduate, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Research Ethics: Permanent member since 2021 of the Ethics Committee, Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Science, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Refereeing: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Cognition*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Wiley WIREs*, *Ergo*, *Synthese*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Topics*, *Thought*, *Philosophical Psychology*, and *Teorema*, among others