

May Helena Plumb (she/her), PhD Student

University of Texas at Austin | Department of Linguistics

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Research Interests

Documentation of Zapotec languages; syntax/semantics; philological study of Colonial Zapotec documents; community-engaged research; digital humanities

Education

In Progress **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin

2016 **B.A. in Linguistics**, Haverford College
Thesis: Conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec

Positions Held

- 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**. Linguistics Department, University of Texas at Austin (Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America). Supervisor(s): Susan Kung, J. Ryan Sullivant
- 2018–2019 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**. Linguistics Department, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2016–2017 **Guest Teacher**. Substitute Teacher Service (Philadelphia area).
- 2013–2017 **Research Assistant**. Linguistics Department, Haverford College. Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen
- 2016 **Assistant Coordinator**. Oaxaca Site, Linguistics Field School, Tri-College Consortium (NSF REU Site Grant #1461056). Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Theodore B. Fernald
- 2015 **Undergraduate Researcher**. Oaxaca Site, Linguistics Field School, Tri-College Consortium (NSF REU Site Grant #1461056). Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, K. David Harrison

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2019 Plumb, May Helena. **Conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec**. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 85 (2), pp. 213–245. DOI: [10.1086/701802](https://doi.org/10.1086/701802)

Fellowships and Awards

- 2019–2024 **Graduate Research Fellowship** (National Science Foundation).
- 2017–2022 **Donald D. Harrington Doctoral Fellowship** (University of Texas at Austin).
- 2016 **Best Descriptive Thesis** (Linguistics Department, Haverford College).

Research Grants

External Grants

2020–2021 Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship II (Pan American Round Tables of Texas). **Documentation & Description of Tlacochohuaya Zapotec.** May Helena Plumb (PI), May 2020–April 2021. \$2,000.

University of Texas at Austin

2019 Carlota Smith Fellowship (Linguistics Department). **Documentation of San Jerónimo Tlacochohuaya Zapotec.** May Helena Plumb (PI), June 2019. \$500.

2018 Joel Sherzer Research Grant (Center for Indigenous Languages of Latin America). **Beginning Fieldwork on Central Zapotec.** May Helena Plumb (PI), June 2018. \$500.

Haverford College

2016 Off-Campus Research Funding (Louis Green Fund). **Linguistics Field School Research Assistantship.** Brook Danielle Lillehaugen (Supervisor), May Helena Plumb (Research Assistant), June 2016. \$1,275.

2015 Student Research Assistantship Grant (Hurford Center for the Humanities). **Summer Research for the Ticha Project.** Brook Danielle Lillehaugen (Supervisor), May Helena Plumb (Research Assistant), May–August 2015. \$3,520.

2014 International Summer Research Internship Grant (Center for Peace and Global Citizenship). **Connecting the Zapotec People with their Ancestral Documents.** May Helena Plumb (Researcher), July 2014. \$2,700.

Conference Presentations & Workshops

2020 Plumb, May Helena. **The imperfective in Central Zapotec: Evidence from Tlacochohuaya Zapotec.** Paper presented at the *Texas Linguistics Society* (TLS) annual meeting, Austin, TX. DOI: [10.17613/dtwz-g482](https://doi.org/10.17613/dtwz-g482)

2020 Plumb, May Helena. **The semantic distribution of Tlacochohuaya Zapotec *r-*.** Paper presented at the *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas* (SSILA) annual meeting, New Orleans, LA. DOI: [10.17613/rd2z-p742](https://doi.org/10.17613/rd2z-p742)

2019 Plumb, May Helena. **A modern Valley Zapotec translation of a Colonial Valley Zapotec text.** Paper presented at the *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas* (SSILA) annual meeting, New York, NY.

- 2018 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle (organizer/discussant), Janet Chávez Santiago (organizer), Felipe H. Lopez, Moisés García Guzmán, Yaneth Molina, May Helena Plumb, Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, and Arnauld Avendano. **Twitter y las lenguas de Oaxaca**. Panel discussion at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangués y Vecinas (COLOV) VIII: Antonio Peñafiel*, Oaxaca City, Mexico.
- 2017 Plumb, May Helena. **Resumptive subject pronouns in Colonial Valley Zapotec relatives**. Paper presented at the *Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA) VIII*, Austin, TX. DOI: [10.17613/M6SN0139X](https://doi.org/10.17613/M6SN0139X)
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, Michael Zarafonetis, and May Helena Plumb. **Humanidades digitales multilingüal y multicultural: el caso de Ticha, un explorador digital de texto para el zapoteco colonial**. Paper presented at the *Encontro de Humanidades Digitales*, Mexico City, Mexico. URL: www.academia.edu/28287127/
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, Michael Zarafonetis, and May Helena Plumb. **Leyendo documentos coloniales en zapoteco del Valle**. Workshop at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangués y Vecinas (COLOV) VII: Juan José Renón Monzón*, Oaxaca City, Mexico.
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, Michael Zarafonetis, and May Helena Plumb. **Ticha, un explorador digital de texto para el zapoteco colonial: creando conexiones**. Paper presented at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangués y Vecinas (COLOV) VII: Juan José Renón Monzón*, Oaxaca City, Mexico.
- 2015 Plumb, May Helena. **The pragmatics of conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec**. Paper presented at the *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA)* annual meeting, Portland, OR. DOI: [10.17613/M6RH1H](https://doi.org/10.17613/M6RH1H)
- 2014 Plumb, May Helena. **La pragmática de las conjunciones en el zapoteco colonial del Valle**. Paper presented at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangués y Vecinas (COLOV) VI: Mario Molina Cruz*, Oaxaca City, Mexico. URL: www.academia.edu/6847558/

Digital Projects

Archival Deposits

- 2019– Plumb, May Helena. **Zapotec Collection of May Helena Plumb**. The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America, ailla.utexas.org. Access: public. PID [ailla:257460](https://nsl.org/ailla:257460). URL: <https://www.ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:257460>

Online Dictionaries

- 2019 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Moisés García Guzmán, with Kathryn Goldberg, María Mercedes Méndez Morales, Benjamin Paul, May Helena Plumb, Chantel Reyes, Cecilia G. Williamson, and David K. Harrison. **Tlacochahuaya Zapotec Talking Dictionary**. Version 2.1. Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. URL: www.talkingdictionary.org/tlacochahuaya.
Previously: Version 2.0 (2018), Version 1.0 (2016)
- 2017 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Janet Chávez Santiago, with Kathryn Goldberg, Tess A. Harty, Nick Kalivoda, Sam Katz, Teresa Martínez Chavez, Javier A. Pina, May Helena Plumb, Diamond C. J. Ray, Cornelio Santos, and Jamie A. Thomas. **Teotitlán del Valle Zapotec Talking Dictionary**. Version 1.2. Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. URL: www.talkingdictionary.org/teotitlan.
Previously: Version 1.1 (2016); Now outdated, replaced by Version 2.0 (2019)
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Felipe H. Lopez, Pamela Munro, with Tess A. Harty, Sam Katz, Javier A. Pina, May Helena Plumb, Diamond C. J. Ray, and Cornelio Santos. **San Lucas Quiavini Zapotec Talking Dictionary**. Version 1.0. Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. URL: www.talkingdictionary.org/sanlucasquiavini.
Now outdated, replaced by Version 2.0 (2019)

Other Digital Resources

- 2020 Josserand, Kathryn, J. Ryan Sullivan, May Helena Plumb, and TranscribeAILLA Volunteers. **Transcriptions of Mixtec Language Surveys**. The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America, ailla.utexas.org. Access: public. PID ailla:271571. URL: <https://ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:271571>
- 2017 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Claire Benham, Janet Chávez Santiago, Emily Drummond, James Arthur Faville, Avery A. King, Bridget Murray, Tristan Jacobo Pepin, May Helena Plumb, Mindy Renee Reutter, James T. Truitt, Christina Nicole Ulowetz, Mike Zarafonetis, and Ian Fisher. **Digital edition of Fray Leonardo Levanto's 1766 *Cathecismo de la lengua Zaapoteca*, beta version**. Ticha Project. URL: <https://ticha.haverford.edu/en/texts/levanto/>
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, May Helena Plumb, and Mike Zarafonetis. **Ticha: a digital text explorer for Colonial Zapotec, first edition**. URL: <http://ticha.haverford.edu>.
Reviewed in: Ortega, Élika. 2019. Review: Ticha. *Reviews in Digital Humanities*, I(1). <https://doi.org/10.21428/3e88f64f.2cb07375>
- 2015 Plumb, May Helena (with Brook Danielle Lillehaugen and various collaborators). **Ethnographic Interviews on Valley Zapotec**. YouTube. Enduring Voices. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLExWnB1-dLglKaXMrKw0wBgxDcanrwwII>

Service

Conference Organization

- Organizer Texas Linguistics Society (2019)
- Reviewer Texas Linguistics Society (2020); Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019)
- Moderator Texas Linguistics Society (2020); Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019, 2017); Symposium About Language and Society, Austin (2019)

Departmental Service, University of Texas at Austin

- 2017– Digital Resources Officer (Associated Students of Linguistics)

Fieldwork

- 2018–2019 **San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya Zapotec (Otomanguan, [zab]).** Graduate fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico; 10 weeks over 2 separate trips.
- 2015, 2016 **Central and Northern Zapotec (Otomanguan).** Linguistics Field School with Brook Danielle Lillehaugen in Oaxaca, Mexico; 5 weeks over 2 separate trips.
- 2014 **Colonial Zapotec (Philological research).** Undergraduate research in Oaxaca, Mexico; 4 weeks.

Other Professional Activities & Skills

Languages

English (native); Spanish (proficient); Colonial Mexican Spanish (reading experience)

Research experience: Central and Northern Zapotec (Otomanguan, [zap]); Windesi Wamesa (Austronesian, [wad]); Southern Bolivian Quechua (Quechuan, [quh])

Professional Memberships

- 2019– Linguistic Society of America
- 2014– Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas
- 2009– American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 2014–2019 The Philological Society

Computer Skills

Linguistic analysis software: Elan, Praat, Fieldworks Language Explorer (FLEX)

Markup languages: L^AT_EX, XML/TEI, HTML

Other computer skills: Open Office, GSuite, Microsoft Office, Ubuntu, Git, R