

May Helena Plumb (she/her), PhD Candidate

University of Texas at Austin | Department of Linguistics

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Education

- In progress **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin
Advisor: Anthony C. Woodbury
- 2020 **M.A. in Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin
Report: [The imperfective space in Tlacoachahuaya Zapotec](#)
- 2016 **B.A. in Linguistics**, Haverford College (Tri-College Program)
Thesis: [Conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec](#)

Positions Held

- 2021/01–05 **Instructional Support Technician**. Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services, University of Texas at Austin.
Supervisor(s): Chad Vredingburgh
- 2020/06–08 **Research Consultant**. Ticha Project, Haverford College.
Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen
- 2019/07–08 **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, Greater Philadelphia Area.
- 2016/06 **Assistant Coordinator**. Oaxaca Site, Linguistics Field School (NSF REU Site Grant #1461056), Tri-College Consortium.
Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Theodore B. Fernald
- 2013–2016 **Research Assistant**. Linguistics Department, Haverford College.
Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2020 Broadwell, George Aaron, Moisés García Guzmán, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Felipe H. Lopez, May Helena Plumb & Mike Zarafonetis. **Ticha: Collaboration with Indigenous communities to build digital resources on Zapotec language and history**. *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 14.4 (Digital Humanities & Colonial Latin American Studies, ed. by Hannah Alpert-Abrams & Clayton McCarl). URL: <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/14/4/000529/000529.html>

- 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

- 2019–2024 **Graduate Research Fellowship** (National Science Foundation).
 2017–2022 **Donald D. Harrington Doctoral Fellowship** (University of Texas at Austin).

Awards

- 2021 **Archives, Libraries, and Digital Scholarship Section Award** (Latin American Studies Association). For *Caseidyneēn Saēn – Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, Moisés García Guzmán, Felipe H. Lopez, George Aaron Broadwell, Alejandra Dubcovsky, Mike Zarafonetis, and Brook Danielle Lillehaugen.
 2021 **Best DH Blog Post or Series** ([Digital Humanities Awards](#)). For Ticha Project 2020 Blog Series, with Ticha Project team (Brook Danielle Lillehaugen et al.).
 2016 **Best Descriptive Thesis** (Linguistics Department, Haverford College). For “Conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec”, B.A. Thesis.

Research Grants

External

- 2020–2022 DLI-DEL Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (National Science Foundation). **Doctoral Dissertation Research: The expression of temporal-modal semantics in an endangered language** ([Award #2019441](#)). Anthony C. Woodbury (PI), May Helena Plumb (Co-PI), August 2020–July 2022. \$6,673.
 2020–2022 Individual Grant (Jacobs Research Funds). **Dissertation Project: Temporality and Modality in Tlacoahuaya Zapotec**. May Helena Plumb (PI), Anthony C. Woodbury (Sponsor), August 2020–July 2022. \$3,000.
 2020–2021* Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship II (Pan American Round Tables of Texas). **Documentation & Description of Tlacoahuaya Zapotec**. May Helena Plumb (PI), May 2020–April 2021. \$2,000.
 *No-cost extension through April 2022 due to COVID-19.

Internal, University of Texas at Austin

- 2019 Carlota Smith Fellowship (Linguistics Department). **Documentation of San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya 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.

Internal, 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.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- 2021 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, May Helena Plumb, George Aaron Broadwell & Felipe H. Lopez. **Recovering Words, Reclaiming Knowledge, and Building Community: Ticha Conversatorios**. Paper presented at the *LASA2021 Virtual Congress: Crisis global, desigualdades y centralidad de la vida*. URL: <https://youtu.be/k5QZkyjsvHQ>
- 2021 Broadwell, George Aaron, Janet Chávez Santiago, Laura Curiel, Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, Moisés García Guzmán, Rogelio Hernández Sernas, Eloise Kadlecek, Collin Kawan-Hemler, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Felipe H. Lopez, Edith Matías, Yaneth Molina, May Helena Plumb, Ignacio Santiago & Maria Velasco-Vasquez. **Caseidyneën Saën: The collaborative creation of open educational materials as a pedagogical practice and act of resistance**. Paper presented at the *7th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation* (Virtual). URL: <https://youtu.be/4AmOX0skxXI>
- 2020 Plumb, May Helena. **The imperfective in Central Zapotec: Evidence from Tlacoachahuaya Zapotec**. Paper presented at the *Texas Linguistics Society* annual meeting, Austin, TX. DOI: [10.17613/dtwz-g482](https://doi.org/10.17613/dtwz-g482)
- 2020 Plumb, May Helena. **The semantic distribution of Tlacoachahuaya Zapotec *r*-**. Paper presented at the *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas* 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* 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 & Arnould Avendano. **Twitter y las lenguas de Oaxaca**. Panel discussion at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangues y Vecinas VIII: Antonio Peñafiel*, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a), Mexico.
- 2017 Plumb, May Helena. **Resumptive subject pronouns in Colonial Valley Zapotec relatives**. Paper presented at the *Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America 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 & May Helena Plumb. **Humanidades digitales multilingual y multicultural: el caso de Ticha, un explorador digital de texto para el zapoteco colonial**. Paper presented at the *3er Encuentro de Humanidades Digitales*, Ciudad de México, Mexico. URL: www.academia.edu/28287127/
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, Michael Zarafonetis & May Helena Plumb. **Leyendo documentos coloniales en zapoteco del Valle**. Workshop at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangues y Vecinas VII: Juan José Renón Monzón*, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a), Mexico.
- 2016 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, Michael Zarafonetis & May Helena Plumb. **Ticha, un explorador digital de texto para el zapoteco colonial: creando conexiones**. Paper presented at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangues y Vecinas VII: Juan José Renón Monzón*, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a), 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* 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 Otomangues y Vecinas VI: Mario Molina Cruz*, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a), Mexico. URL: www.academia.edu/6847558/

Archival Collections and Datasets

- 2019–2020 Plumb, May Helena (Collector, Depositor). **Zapotec Collection of May Helena Plumb**. The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America, ailla.utexas.org. Access: public. PID ailla:257460. URL: <https://www.ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:257460>

- 2020 Josseland, Kathryn (Researcher, Collector), J. Ryan Sullivan (Depositor, Compiler, Editor), May Helena Plumb (Data technician) & TranscribeAILLA Volunteers (Transcribers). **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>

Reports

- 2020 Sullivan, J. Ryan & May Helena Plumb. **The TranscribeAILLA Project: Objectives, Methods, and Lessons**. Whitepaper for NEH Grant #PW-259116-18. URL: <https://securegrants.neh.gov/publicquery/main.aspx?f=1&gn=PW-259116-18>

Pedagogical Materials

- In prep. Flores-Marcial, Xóchitl, Moisés García Guzmán, Felipe H. Lopez, George Aaron Broadwell, Alejandra Dubcovsky, May Helena Plumb, Mike Zarafonetis & Brook Danielle Lillehaugen (eds.). **Caseidyneën Saën — Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials**. Ticha Project, PressBooks. URL: <http://ds-wordpress.haverford.edu/ticha-resources/modules/>. Spanish version: <http://ds-wordpress.haverford.edu/ticha-resources/recursos-de-ticha/>
- In prep. Plumb, May Helena. **Ticha**. In Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al. (eds.), *Caseidyneën Saën — Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*. Ticha Project, PressBooks. URL: <http://ds-wordpress.haverford.edu/ticha-resources/modules/chapter/ticha-pedagogical-unit-1-introduction-to-the-ticha-project/>. Spanish version: <http://ds-wordpress.haverford.edu/ticha-resources/recursos-de-ticha/chapter/materiales-pedagogicos-unidad-1-introduccion-al-proyecto-ticha/>

Digital Scholarship

- 2020 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Claire Benham, Janet Chávez Santiago, Emily Drummond, James Arthur Faville, Eloise Kadlecsek, Collin Kawan-Hemler, Avery A. King, Bridget Murray, Tomas Paris, Heewon Park, Tristan Jacobo Pepin, May Helena Plumb, Mindy Renee Reutter, James E. Truitt, Christina Nicole Ulowetz, Mike Zarafonetis & Ian Fisher. **Digital edition of Fray Leonardo Levanto's 1766 *Cathecismo de la lengua Zaapoteca*, first edition**. Ticha Project. URL: <https://ticha.haverford.edu/en/texts/levanto/>. Previously: Beta version (2017)
- 2019 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Moisés García Guzmán, with Kathryn Goldberg, María Mercedes Méndez Morales, Benjamin Paul, May Helena Plumb, Chantel Reyes, Cecilia G. Williamson & David K. Harrison. **Tlacoahuaya Zapotec Talking Dictionary**. Version 2.1. Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. URL: www.talkingdictionary.org/tlacoahuaya. 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 & 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, George Aaron Broadwell, Michel R. Oudijk, Laurie Allen, May Helena Plumb & 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://reviewsindh.pubpub.org/pub/ticha/release/14>
- 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 & 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)
- 2015 [various collaborators including] Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle & May Helena Plumb. **Ethnographic Interviews on Valley Zapotec**. YouTube. Enduring Voices. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLExWnB1-dLglKaXMrKw0wBgxDcanrwvII>

Publications & Events in Public Forums

Writing

- 2021 Plumb, May Helena. **Lessons from Caseyneën Saën: Creativity, resilience, and collaborative scholarship**. Blog post as part of a collaboration between the Community-based Global Learning Collaborative and the Ticha Project. URL: <https://compact.org/lessons-from-caseyneen-saen-creativity-resilience-and-collaborative-scholarship/>

Talks

- 2021 Plumb, May Helena. **Ticha: Una herramienta digital para investigar la historia de las lenguas y culturas zapotecas**. Invited talk at the Universidad del Pueblo, Tlacolula (Virtual). URL: <http://www.facebook.com/102120957834920/videos/1370298846642392>
- 2020 Chávez Santiago, Janet, Xóchitl M. Flores-Marcial, Moisés García Guzmán, Felipe H. Lopez, Kimberly Aguero Martins, George Aaron Broadwell, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, May Helena Plumb & Mike Zarafonetis. **Speaking, Writing, and Resisting: Celebrating Zapotec Language Activism**. Panel presentation at the *Center for Peace and Global Citizenship*. URL: <https://youtu.be/Z9T1HugTEjk>

Media Appearances

2020 Caldwell, Brendan (Host), Pip Warr (Co-host) & May Helena Plumb (Guest). **How does a language die? (Heaven's Vault)**. *Hey Lesson*. [podcast episode]. URL: <https://heylesson.net/podcast/how-do-languages-die-heavens-vault/>

Academic Service

Academic Publishing Service

Reviewer for ***Tlalocan*** (2021)

Conference Organization

Organizer of **Texas Linguistics Society** (2019)

Reviewer for **Texas Linguistics Society** (2021, 2020);
Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019)

Moderator at **Texas Linguistics Society** (2021, 2020);
Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019, 2017);
Symposium About Language and Society, Austin (2019)

University & Departmental Service, University of Texas at Austin

Member of **ASOL Dissertation Defense Committee** (2019–Present);
ASOL Digital Resources Committee (2017–Present)

Judge for **Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference** (2021/02)

Drafter of **ASOL Anti-Racism Statement** (2020/08)

Professional Affiliations

Member of **Linguistic Society of America** (2019–Present);
Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (2014–Present);
Latin American Studies Association (2020–2021);
American Association for the Advancement of Science (2009–2020);
Philological Society (2014–2019)

Other Professional Activities & Skills

Language skills

Communicative knowledge: **English** (native); **Spanish** (proficient); **Colonial Mexican Spanish** (reading experience); **Tlacochohuaya Zapotec** (basic)

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

Community-based research experiences

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