

May Helena Plumb (she/her), PhD Candidate

University of Texas at Austin | Department of Linguistics

305 E. 23rd St. STOP B5100
RLP 4.304 Dept of Linguistics
Austin, TX 78712

Email: mayhplumb@utexas.edu
Website: www.mayhplumb.com
Twitter: [@mayhplumb](https://twitter.com/mayhplumb)

Research Interests

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

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 Tlacoahuaya Zapotec
- 2016 **B.A. in Linguistics**, Haverford College (Tri-College Program)
Thesis: [Conjunction in Colonial Valley Zapotec](#)

Positions Held

- 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

- 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

- 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 Tlacochohuaya 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 Tlacochohuaya Zapotec**. May Helena Plumb (PI), May 2020–April 2021. \$2,000.

Internal, 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.

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.

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 Tlacoahuaya 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 Arnould Avendano. **Twitter y las lenguas de Oaxaca**. Panel discussion at the *Coloquio sobre Lenguas Otomangues 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 multilingual y multicultural: el caso de Ticha, un explorador digital de texto para el zapoteco colonial**. Paper presented at the *Encuentro 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 Otomangues 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 Otomangues 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 Otomangues y Vecinas (COLOV) VI: Mario Molina Cruz*, Oaxaca City, Mexico. URL: www.academia.edu/6847558/

Digital Scholarship

Documentation of Tlacoachahuaya Zapotec

- 2020 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. URL: <https://www.ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:257460>

Ticha Project

- In prep. Flores-Marcial, Xóchitl, Moisés García Guzmán, Felipe H. Lopez, George Aaron Broadwell, May Helena Plumb, Mike Zarafonetis, and 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**. *Caseidyneën Saën — Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*. Ed. by Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, Moisés García Guzmán, Felipe H. Lopez, George Aaron Broadwell, May Helena Plumb, Mike Zarafonetis, and Brook Danielle Lillehaugen. 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/>
- 2020 Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle, Claire Benham, Janet Chávez Santiago, Emily Drummond, James Arthur Faville, Eloise Kadlecek, 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, and 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)
- 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>

Zapotec Talking 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. **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, 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 Projects

- 2020 Josserand, Kathryn, J. Ryan Sullivant, 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>
- 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>

Academic 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

Committee **ASOL Anti-Racism Statement Drafting Committee** (August 2020);
 Member **ASOL Dissertation Defense Committee** (2019–Present); **ASOL Digital Resources** (2017–Present)

Professional Affiliations

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

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])

Fieldwork

2018–2019 **Graduate fieldwork 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). 4 weeks.