

**May Helena Plumb, PhD** (she/her)

*Curriculum Vitae: Linguistics*

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## Education

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- 2024 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin  
Dissertation: [Temporal-modal semantics in Diza \(Tlacoahuaya Zapotec\)](#)  
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

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- 2020/06–08 **Research Consultant**. Ticha Project, Haverford College.  
Supervisor(s): Brook Danielle Lillehaugen
- 2019/07–08 **Graduate Research Assistant**. Linguistics Department / Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America, University of Texas at Austin.  
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

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- 2023 McCarl, Clayton, Emma Slayton, Carolina Alzate, George Aaron Broadwell, Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Felipe H. Lopez, Siobhan Meï, May Helena Plumb, Ernesto Priani Saisó & Jonathan Michael Square. **Colonial and Nineteenth-Century Latin American Studies and Digital Public Humanities**. *Digital Studies / Le champ numérique* 13.3 (DH Unbound 2022, Selected Papers, ed. by B. Bordalejo, R. Risam, et al.), pp. 1–32. DOI: [10.16995/dscn.9601](https://doi.org/10.16995/dscn.9601)

- 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 H. Alpert-Abrams & C. 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)

## Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

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- 2024 Plumb, May Helena, Alejandra Dubcovsky, Moisés García Guzmán, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen & Felipe H. Lopez. **Growing a bigger linguistics through a Zapotec agenda: The Ticha Project.** In *Decolonizing Linguistics*, ed. by A. H. Charity Hudley, C. Mallinson & M. Bucholtz. Oxford University Press. URL: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/decolonizing-linguistics-9780197755266>

## Fellowships

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

## Awards

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- 2023 **Honorable Mention: Open Scholarship Awards** (Canadian Social Knowledge Institute). For *Caseidyneën Saën – Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al.
- 2021 **One of the Best Historical Materials** (Reference and User Services Association). For *Caseidyneën Saën – Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al.
- 2021 **Honorable Mention: Innovation Prize** (Library Company of Philadelphia). For *Caseidyneën Saën – Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al.
- 2021 **Mejor iniciativa formativa desarrollada en 2020** (Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas). For *Caseidyneën Saën – Aprendemos Juntos: Recursos didácticos sobre zapoteco colonial del Valle*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al.
- 2021 **Archives, Libraries, and Digital Scholarship Section Award** (Latin American Studies Association). For *Caseidyneën Saën – Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, with Xóchitl Flores-Marcial et al..
- 2020 **Best DH Blog Post or Series** (Digital Humanities Awards). For *Ticha Project* Blog Series, with Brook Danielle Lillehaugen et al.

## Research Grants

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### *External*

- 2020–2024 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), Original award period August 2020–July 2022; no-cost extension due to COVID-19. \$6,673.
- 2020–2024 Individual Grant (Jacobs Research Funds). **Dissertation Project: Temporality and Modality in Tlacoahuaya Zapotec**. May Helena Plumb (PI), Anthony C. Woodbury (Sponsor), August 2020–July 2024. \$3,000.

### *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

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- 2023 Plumb, May Helena. **El uso del contrafactual en Diza (el zapoteco de San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya)**. Paper presented at the *Congreso sobre Lenguas Otomangués y Vecinas IX: Francisco Toledo, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a)*, Mexico.
- 2023 Plumb, May Helena. **Irrealis in Diza, a Valley Zapotec language**. Paper presented at the *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas* annual meeting, online.

- 2022 Alzate, Carolina, George Aaron Broadwell, Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Felipe H. Lopez, Clayton McCarl, Siobhan Meï, Albert A. Palacios, May Helena Plumb, Ernesto Priani Saisó, Emma Slayton & Jonathan Michael Square. **Colonial and Nineteenth-Century Latin American Studies and Digital Public Humanities**. Roundtable at *DH Unbound*. URL: <https://youtu.be/RJVjNAYc67k>
- 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 Tlacoahuaya 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 Tlacoahuaya 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/](http://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 Otomangués 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 Otomangués 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 Otomangués y Vecinas VI: Mario Molina Cruz*, Oaxaca de Juárez (Ndu'a), Mexico. URL: [www.academia.edu/6847558/](http://www.academia.edu/6847558/)

## Archival Collections and Datasets

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- 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](http://ailla.utexas.org). Access: public. PID ailla:257460. URL: <https://www.ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:257460>
- 2020 Josserand, Kathryn (Researcher, Collector), J. Ryan Sullivant (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](http://ailla.utexas.org). Access: public. PID ailla:271571. URL: <https://ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:271571>

## Reports

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- 2020 Sullivant, 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

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- 2021 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/>
- 2021 Plumb, May Helena. **Ticha**. In *Caseidyneën Saën — Learning Together: Colonial Valley Zapotec Teaching Materials*, ed. by X. Flores-Marcial, M. García Guzmán, F. H. Lopez, G. A. Broadwell, A. Dubcovsky, M. H. Plumb, M. Zarafonetis & B. D. 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/>

## Digital Scholarship

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- 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 & 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](http://www.talkingdictionary.org/tlacoahuaya). Previously: Version 2.0 (2018), Version 1.0 (2016)
- 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>
- 2015 [various collaborators including] Lillehaugen, Brook Danielle & May Helena Plumb. **Interviews on Valley Zapotec**. YouTube. Enduring Voices, URL: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLExWnB1-dLgIKaXMrKw0wBgxDcanrwwII>



## LingComm: Scholarship in Public Forums

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### Writing

- 2022 Plumb, May Helena. **Radical collaboration: Brook Lillehaugen and the Ticha Project**. *Not Even Past*. URL: <https://notevenpast.org/radical-collaboration-brook-lillehaugen-and-the-ticha-project/>
- 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>

### 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

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### Publishing Process

Reviewer for *Tlalocan* (2021)

### Translation

- 2021 Alonso Ortiz, Ana D. (Author), Megan J. Crowhurst (Translator) & May Helena Plumb (Translator). **“And what are you getting out of this?” Experiencing fieldwork in your community of origin: from reflection into emotional healing**. In *Theoretical reflections around the role of fieldwork in linguistics and linguistic anthropology: Contributions of indigenous researchers from southern Mexico*, ed. by E. Cruz Cruz (Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication 23), pp. 89–108. University of Hawai'i Press. URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24986>

### Conference Organization

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

Reviewer for **Texas Linguistics Society** (2022, 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 Digital Resources Committee** (2017–2023);  
**ASOL Dissertation Defense Committee** (2019–2021)

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

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

Captioner for **Nora England Oral History Project** (2022/03)