RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Cynthia Groff
Title of clinic:	Exploring language ideology in Mexican bilingual education: Audio and video transcription and analysis
Number of students:	1-3
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	Spanish language fluency

Research context

Mexico's Intercultural Bilingual Education program provides space for the teaching and learning of indigenous languages in government primary schools. However, the indigenous languages are rarely if ever afforded a status comparable to Spanish in the school. A possible exception are two rural bilingual schools where teachers and administrators have put much effort into promoting the P'urhepecha language and culture. Audio and video recordings were made of teachers' meetings, teacher interviews, and classroom observations at these two schools. The research focuses on the use of language and discourses surrounding language, how language policy is enforced and/or contested, and what these language practices reveal about local language ideologies.

Students' tasks and activities

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.

Students will help to review Spanish-language audio and video recordings, creating an inventory of contents and of language switches, and transcribing targeted materials in Spanish. The transcriptions will be broad (as opposed to narrow or phonetic).
Students will then learn to use the Atlas.ti program to analyze the transcripts and other qualitative research notes and transcriptions.

Learning aims: experience with transcription (including a chosen transcription program) and qualitative analysis (using Atlas.ti); exposure to literature and concepts related to minority rights, bilingual education, language policy and language ideology, especially in the Mexican indigenous language context

Students will produce a final report on their primary findings and impressions based on their reading of relevant literature and analysis of the materials.