

Investigating the Indigenous languages of the Americas: History and prospects

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This focus stream will look at the state of the art in the studies on the Indigenous languages of the Americas to reflect on the perspectives for future research. Since the first grammatical descriptions in the 16th century, the new data from these languages have contributed to the development of language study and the birth of modern linguistics and continue to inform linguistic theory. Ongoing documentation also plays a crucial role in language preservation, while historical data provide a better understanding of present-day languages and contribute to language revitalization. At the same time, linguistic data have affected the perception of Indigenous cultures over time, and their analysis sheds light on historical events such as contacts, migration, and the spread of cultural features.