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4-27-2023

Archiving Latinxs on the U.S. Great Plains - Coming to the Plains

Laurinda Weisse

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**COMING
TO THE
PLAINS**



**LLENANDO
LAS
LLANURAS**

Prof. Laurinda Weisse
University Archivist
Digital Repository Manager
University of Nebraska at Kearney

Society of Southwest Archivists, 4/27/2023

About University of Nebraska at Kearney

- Began as a normal school; still heavily focused on training educators
- 3850 undergraduate and 1700 graduate students
- ~14% Hispanic/Latine
- 10% Hispanic-serving institution; hope to be 20%

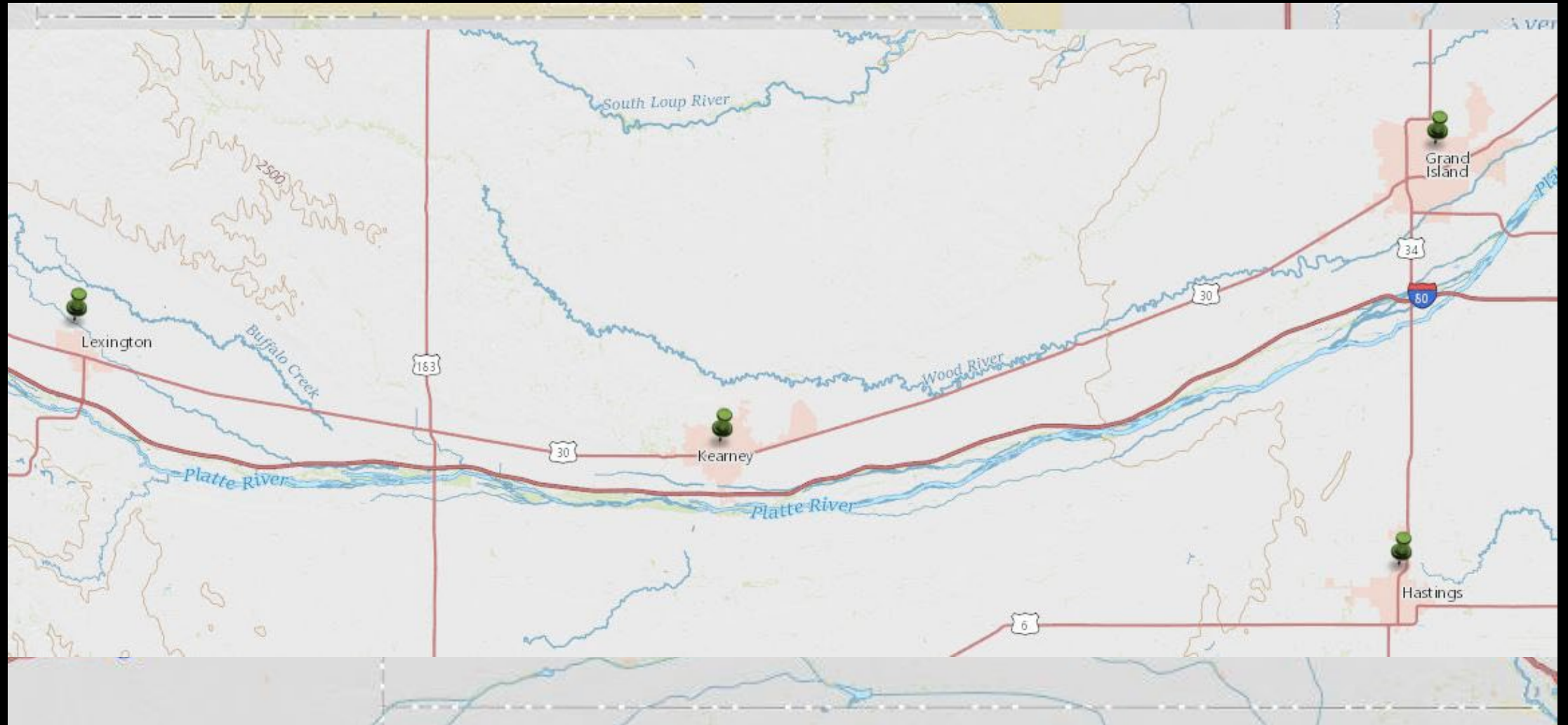




Coming to the Plains

- 2017-present; most active 2017-2021
- Grant funded
- Student workers
- Community advisors

Participating Communities



City	Population	% Hispanic or Latino
Grand Island	52,335	33.0
Hastings	25,037	13.6
Kearney	33,959	9.7
Lexington	10,360	63.3

Community Demographics (2021)



Informed Consent

Agency of Participants vs. Acknowledgement of Risks

- Choice of identification
- Choice of recording type

WITH

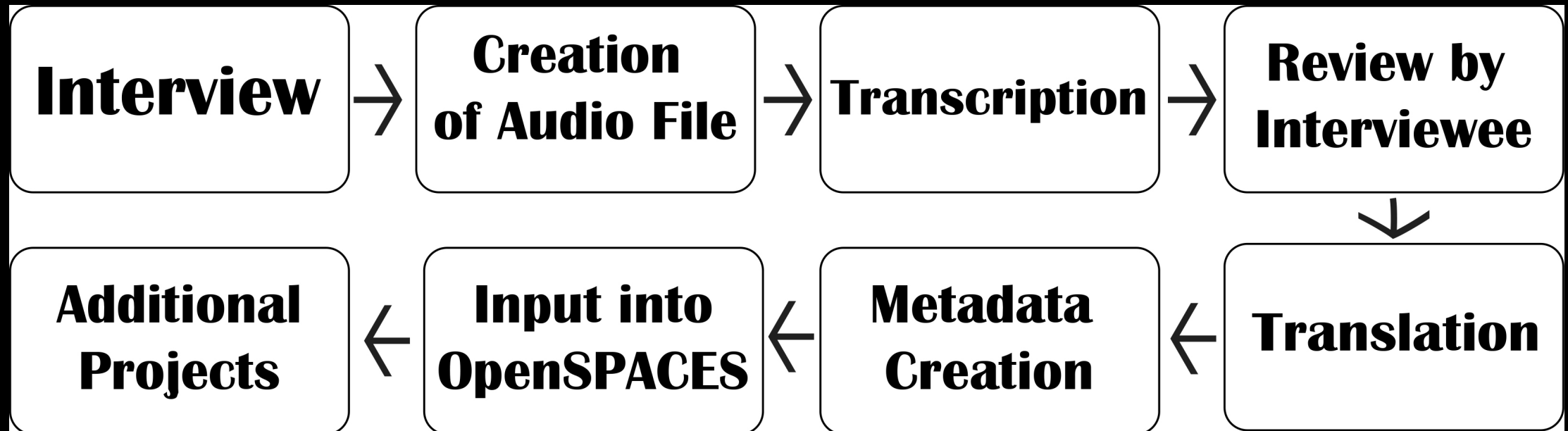
Open-ended questions to allow participant to control how much they shared



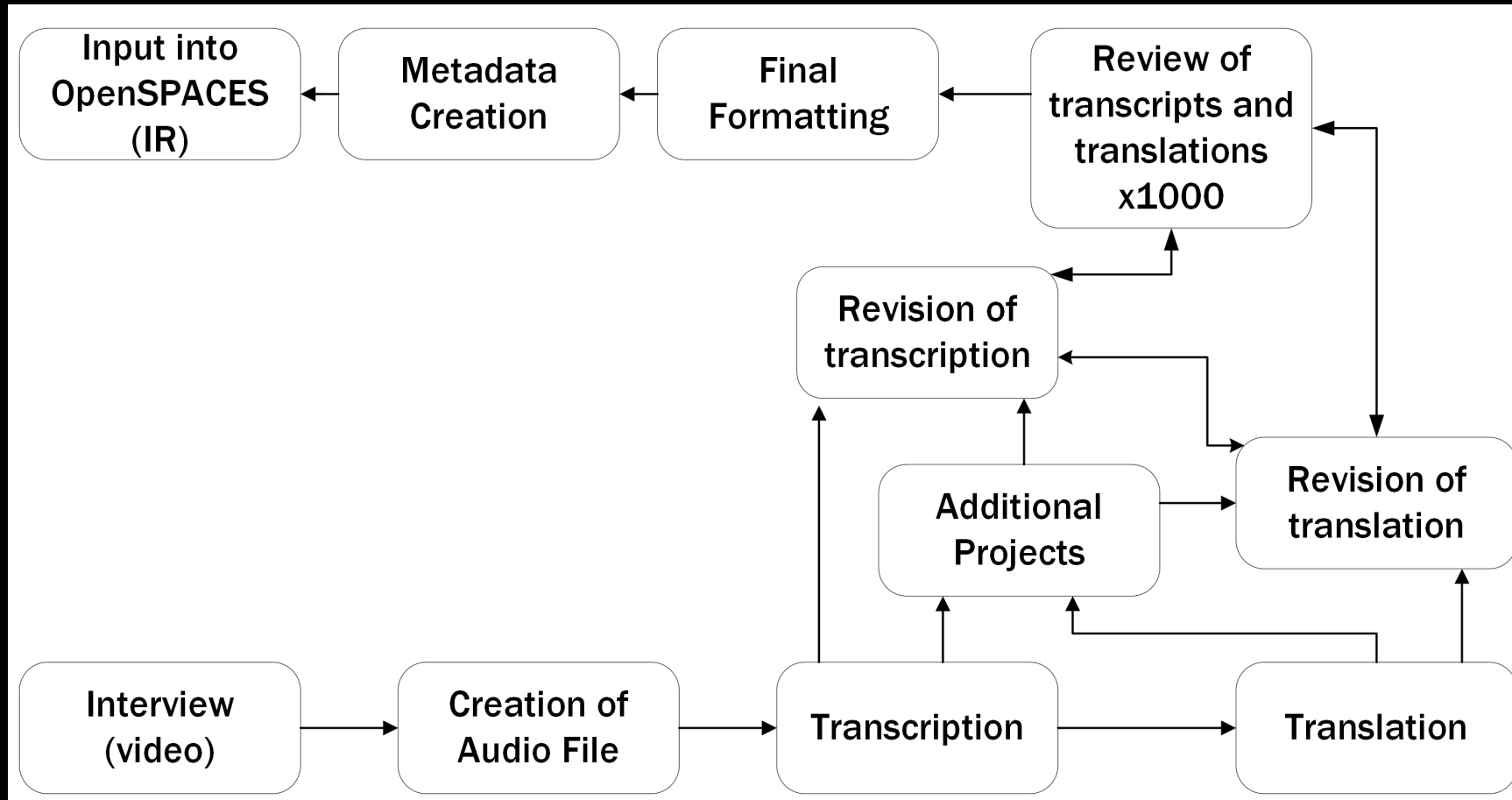
Interviews

- 20 conducted
- Countries represented:
 - Colombia
 - Dominican Republic
 - El Salvador
 - Guatemala
 - Honduras
 - Mexico
 - United States

Processing Workflow: Plan



Processing Workflow: Reality





Transcription & Translation

- Everything fully bilingual
- Transcription: done by students, in their native language
- Translation: begun by Modern Languages class, as a group; additional translations by research assistant, graduate assistant, Prof. Weisse and co-PI Dr. Michelle Warren

Challenges

- Time!
- Turnover
- Competing priorities

Takeaways/Recommendations

- Document everything.
- Build in a lot of time for revisions, more than you think you could possibly need. Then double that amount.
- Shared documents are your friend – use the comments heavily particularly when translating!
- When possible, have a native-speaker do the final review of translation & transcript.



“I think it’s important that our stories get told, because our voice is all we have to express ourselves. By having it out there, someone is going to hear and relate to it and want to tell their stories...we will create a collective book of stories that are unique to each person.”

– **Leslie Garcia**

Thanks! Questions
& comments
welcome.

Prof. Laurinda Weisse

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Project homepage: <https://comingtotheplains.org/>

Interviews and
project documentation: <https://openspaces.unk.edu/cttp/>