

Basque Country-USA: Evolution and Future Relationship (Virtual seminar)

S P E A K E R S :

Session I: March 2

(17:00–19:00 Central European Time)



Xabier Irujo

Born in exile, Xabier Irujo is the director of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is professor of genocide studies. He has published on issues related to Basque history and politics and has specialized along his career in genocide studies with a focus on physical and cultural extermination. He holds three master's degrees in linguistics, history and philosophy and has two Ph.D.s in history and philosophy. Irujo has lectured in nearly 100 American and European universities and academic or cultural institutions (typically governments, parliaments, museums and libraries.)



Martin O'Muilleor

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir is an Irish SF politician, author, publisher and businessman, who served as the 58th Lord mayor of Belfast (2013–14) and. Former MLA, he was appointed Minister of Finance in the Northern Ireland Executive. . In 1997, Ó Muilleoir became part-owner of the Andersonstown

News, which subsequently purchased the New York-based Irish Echo. A fluent Irish speaker, he has strong interests in Irish and American links.

Jean Flesher

Jean Flesher is a home builder and remodeler. He is co-owner of French Maison LLC imports and Euskal Mubleak. He is NABO delegate from the Basque Club of Utah and the North American Asesor for the World Congress of Basque Entities. He is the leader of the Jean Flesher Orchestra and Amerikanuak. He was recipient of the NABO Bizi Emankorra award (2017), co-founder Ipar Ameriketako Euskal Dantzarien Biltzarra (1987). Jean Flesher has been involved for decades in the promotion of Basque culture, dance and music all around the West.





Iñaki Goirizelaia Ordorika

Iñaki Goirizelaia, PhD is a full professor of Telecommunication Engineering at the University of the Basque Country in the Department of Communication Engineering. He is the former President of the University of the Basque Country (2009–2017). Previously, he was Vice-president of the Campus of Biscay of the same university. He is founder of the .eus Foundation which was created, once ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) approved .eus domain, to promote and provide the backbone to the Basque language and culture

community in Internet. He has been visiting Fellow at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in California, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and in the Eloise Garmendia Bieter at Boise State University (BSU).



Argia Beristain

Argia Beristain is Associate Vice President for Development in the Basque Studies Program of Boise State University. She has been North American Basque Organization (NABO) Delegate since 1999 representing Las Vegas, Seattle, Washington, DC and Boise (present) Euskal Etxeak throughout the years. Gazteumundu 2003 Participant as well as World Congress of Basque Communities 2003 & 2019 USA Representative and Delegate. Creator and Event Director of the Basque Soccer Friendly 2015 (Athletic Club Bilbao in Boise, Idaho during Jaialdi) and volunteer and Presenter for the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival's Basque: Innovation by Culture. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Women Studies from the University of Washington and a Master Certificate in Basque Studies from the University of the Basque Country.



Xabier Berrueta

Xabier Berrueta is president of the United States Federation of Pelota. Son of Immigrant Parents from the Baztan Valley of Nafarroa, he first learned his mother tongue of Euskera while being raised on the edge of Chinatown and North Beach in San Francisco. It would be not until he was 4 years old that English was introduced to be followed up by Castilian-Spanish at eight and French much later while at UC Davis. He studied at the George Washington University, School of Business and the University of California. The love and spirit for sport has been embedded since even before birth. Aitatxi Manuel, notorious for knowing to wager against the priests of the Baztan Valley, in a match of pilota would outright

win with Aitatxi taking home the offertory collection as a means to help feed the seven kids waiting at home. Needless to say the Berruetas joined the Medicis as marked adversaries of the Holy See. This passion for the sport of pilota has expanded beyond the rural communities of Euskal Herria and quite frankly across six continents. What started with Aitatxi will and has continued to inspire an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy and imprint of Basqueness in the World. He has been Director of Competition (Basque Pelota) on the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games and Director of the Basque Cultural center (San Francisco). He runs a linguistic agency.

CO - ORGANIZERS :



Mikel Burzako

Mikel Burzako is currently Member of National Committee, in charge of Foreign Affairs, in Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) since 2016 and Chief Executive Officer of European Institute of Democrats since 2019 and Member of the Board since 2017. Prior

to this appointment, he was the Representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Spain and Portugal, Director of Coordination in

Presidency of the Basque Government and earlier Director for Foreign Affairs and Director of the Development. He was living for seven years in Chile as Head and Director of the Basque-Chile Foundation for Development. Burzako received his degree in economic science and business administration from the University of Deusto and has done several training programs internationally.



Urko Aiartza Azurtza

Urko Aiartza Azurtza is the director of the Telesforo Monzon eLab, a laboratory of ideas for state-building and the Olaso Dorrea Foundation. He served as Senator in the Madrid Senate (2011–2015) and served as Spokesperson in the Justice, Foreign Affairs, Iberoamerican and Standing Senate Committees. Since 2017 he is Senior Adviser of the European Institute of Peace (EIP) in Brussels as well as counsel of a variety of international organizations working in a variety of place like Colombia, Moldova, Ukraine or Ethiopia. He received his degree in law from the University of the Basque Country and a Master Degree in Conflictology from the Universitat Oberta de Catalonia. Currently he is a member of the Gipuzkoa Bar and runs a law firm in Donostia.

Mireia Zarate Agirre

Mireia Zarate is the President of the Sabino Arana Foundation and a member of the Executive Committee (EBB) of the Basque Nationalist Party (EAJ-PNV). She served as a councilor in the Zamudio city council and as a member of the Basque Autonomous Parliament from 2011 to 2015. She holds a Degree in Business Administration and Management from the Basque University (UPV/EHU) and a Master's Degree in Account Auditing from Deusto University.



S P E A K E R S :

Session II: March 4

(17:00–19:00 Central European Time)



Juan José Ibarretxe Markuartu

Juan José Ibarretxe Markuartu is the former president of the Basque Autonomous Community (1999–2009). Currently he is president of Agirre Lehendakaria Fundazioa (ALF) and director of the Agirre Lehendakari Center (ALC) until 2020, as well as Professor of Economics in the Universidad Interamericana

de Puerto Rico. He was previously vice-Lehendakari and Mayor of his birthplace, Llodio. After his time in politics, he focused on the academic area, founding the Agirre Lehendakari Center and obtaining his doctorate from the UPV/EHU in 2010.

Kirmen Uribe

Kirmen Uribe is a Basque writer and did his graduate studies in Comparative Literature in Trento, Italy. He won his first literary

award, in 1995, when he was in prison for resisting the military draft (since he didn't care to participate in the then-obligatory service); In 2008 he received the Critics' Prize for his novel Bilbao–New York–Bilbao written in Basque, and in October of 2009 he was awarded the Spanish Literature Prize, for the same work.



Herman Uscategui

Herman Uscategui is the Senior Vice President Strategic Partnerships and Business Development at Cortex(United States). Herman also serves as a senior advisor for Zunum Aero(United States). Prior to current roles, Herman held various executive positions at Starbucks Coffee Company, including director of Global Strategy –Strategic Alliances. Prior to joining Starbucks, Herman was director, Worldwide Projects at Westin Hotels & Resorts corporate offices in Seattle, WA. He started his business career in Tokyo, Japan with Aoki Corporation. Herman has been involved in international projects across four

continents and has lived in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the US. He received a Master in Engineering from Saitama University/University of Tokyo and is a PhD scholar from the University of Tokyo in Japan. He also holds a Master in Science of Economics from Temple University in Japan and is fluent in several languages. Herman is the chair of the board of One World Now!a non-profit organization based in Seattle dedicated to youth leadership development and after-school critical language



straining (Arabic and Chinese) for underserved high school students. Herman is an active member of the Socrates Society in the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Japan America Society. Herman belongs also to the International Advisory Board of ESADE in Barcelona, Spain.



Rafael Anchía

Rafael Anchía is currently serving his eighth term in the Texas Legislature and represents a western corridor of Dallas County. Rep. Anchía currently serves as the Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations and Economic Development. He also serves as a member of the Energy Resources Committee and the House

Administration Committee.

From 2011–2015, he served in President Barack Obama's administration as an appointee to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, which advises the White House and U.S. Trade Representative on trade and investment agreements. He has dedicated his public service to fighting for civil rights, public education, protecting the environment and improving access to health care for women and children.

Rep. Anchía is a co-founder and Managing Director in the global investment firm, Civitas Capital Group; he also serves as Of Counsel at the largest law firm in Dallas, Haynes and Boone, where he represents financial institutions and public and private funds.

Marian Elorza

Marian Elorza's entire professional experience has been focused on international relations. She started in her position as external action specialist at the Basque Delegation to the EU. From March 1999 to May 2009 she was Director for Internationalisation at the Basque Ministry



of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Since December 2012 she holds a position of Secretary General for External Affairs of the Basque Government.

As General Secretary, she is responsible for the Euskadi Basque Country Internationalisation Framework Strategy. Marián Elorza has a degree in Economics and Business, by University of the Basque Country, and a Master Degree in European Studies by the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), and a Master in Advanced European Studies at Nancy European University Centre (France).



Iratxe Esnaola Arribillaga

Iratxe Esnaola is the President of the Olosa Dorrea Foundation and a member of its TM eLab laboratory of ideas. Professor at the Deusto Business School, since 2016, she is also its Vice-Secretary. Previously she was the Director of the Basque .eus Foundation. Doctor of Education from Deusto University, she holds a Master's Degree in Computer Engineering from the same university.

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