

Oral History

NABO is encouraging members to join our current oral history project, Memoria Bizia, in order to record the story of our elders. If we don't do it, others will not and too much will be lost. The active involvement of the different individuals and communities that form Basque-America is paramount to the success of the overall project.

Memoria Bizia - the Basque Diaspora Living Heritage Project, United States and Canada



Collect | Preserve | Disseminate

For the past years, we have witnessed how rapidly the last massive Basque migrant and exile generation, dispersed throughout the world, is unfortunately vanishing. “Memoria Bizia, the Basque Diaspora Living Heritage Project,” has been designed with the goals of collecting, preserving and disseminating the Basque history of migration and exile through the personal oral testimonies of Basques who left their country of birth as well as their descendants born in the United States and Canada. The oral history interviews will be centralized into open-public repositories for long-term preservation as a resilient statement of Basque identity and culture for future generations.

Memoria Bizia is a community-based project. Consequently, we encourage Basque individuals, associations and communities become active participants in the project; not only through agreeing to be interviewed as a witness of a near past, but also by conducting interviews and helping to reconstruct the history of Basque migration and settlement. We want to empower them as active participants in history, rather than passive subjects. Their collaboration and active involvement in the project is paramount for the project's success.

Memoria Bizia is a project directed by Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal ([Jon Bilbao Research Fellow on the Basque Diaspora](#), 2014-16, at the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno) and funded by the North American Basque Organizations, the Basque Government, the Etxepare Basque Institute, and the University of Deusto.



In collaboration with the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries, the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Montreal (Quebec), the Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise (ID), the Great Basin College, Elko (NV), the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and the Toronto War Museum (Ontario).





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Oklahoma Oral History
Research Program



How to get involved

1. Express your desire to participate in the project by hosting a training workshop, which could help to recruit interviewers, or by joining an already established working team in your nearby area.
2. As soon as the team is set up identify potential interviewees: the priority is to interview Basque elders born in the Basque Country, in the US or Canada or elsewhere who may live in your local area.
3. Conduct the interviews and video record them.
4. Summarize and index the interviews for their preservation into archival institutions.

What's in it for you?

1. You will be part of the largest attempt to record the oral history of Basque migrants and exiles and their descendants.
2. You will be part of the largest network of volunteers ever assembled in the US and Canada with the urgent goal of collecting and preserving the direct testimonies of our elders. Basque associations and individuals from Montreal, Toronto, Bakersfield, Boise, Chino, New York, Elko, San Francisco, etc., are stepping forward to become part of the project. This is just the beginning.
3. Your time and dedication will contribute to increase the knowledge about the history of your community, making it more visible to both the North American and the Basque societies.
4. We hope that your involvement in the project will also be rewarding personally and it will enrich you.
5. Your club, if that's its desire, and you will be recognized by NABO for playing such an essential role in the project. Without your help there will not be a project.
6. From an academic point of view, if you are a college student or if you have already graduated, you will receive a certificate attesting to your participation in this international research project.

For more information on how to participate in the project, please contact Kate Camino at info@nabasque.org

Useful documents

[Principles and Best Practices](#) | [Informed Consent Form](#) | [Workshop Packet](#) | [Biographical Data Form](#) | [Recording Equipment Guide](#)

On the News

- [“Get involved with Memoria Bizia”](#) (April 2015, Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno).
- [“Memoria Bizia. A project in defense of the memory of the Basques”](#) (In the Spanish. April 2015, About the Basque Country).
- [“Basques in the US and Canada are organizing to recover the stories of their elders with the ‘Memoria Bizia’ project”](#) (April 2015, EuskalKultura.com).
- [“Workshops on how to interview elder Basque immigrants, soon to begin in Canada and the US”](#) (June 2014, EuskalKultura.com).
- [“Nathalie Urroz ‘totally’ recommends the ‘Memoria Bizia’ workshops, after taking part in one in San Francisco”](#) (July 2014. EuskalKultura.com).
- [“Project to save oral histories of Basque immigrants”](#) (July 2014, EuskalKazeta).

Join us

- [Memoria Bizia in Facebook](#)
- Twitter: #MemoriaBizia

MEDIA TOOLKIT

Please feel free to use the following Memoria Bizia's logos and banners for your websites, blogs and online social networks, and link them to this webpage: http://www.nabasque.org/oral_history.html

For further questions and suggestions: info@nabasque.org