



TRANSLATION: Wor(l)ds in Other Wor(l)ds

2nd International Conference on Cultural Studies

Presented by Boise State University, Department of World Languages and the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno – September 14 to 16, 2023

The Eloise Garmendia Bieter Chair in Basque Studies

The *Eloise Garmendia Bieter Chair in Basque Studies* was created in 2015 through an agreement between Boise State University and the Etxepare Basque Institute. The Chair is named in honor of Eloise Garmendia Bieter. Eloise was born in Boise in 1925 to immigrant parents from the Basque Country and remained active in the Basque community throughout her life, as did her husband, Dr. Pat Bieter, a former Boise State professor, who supported education about Basques his entire life and professional career. In 1974, Eloise and Pat led the drive to launch a study abroad program connecting Boise State to the town of Oñati in the Basque Country. The Bieters passed away in 1999, but their legacy remains strong today.

The goal of the Basque Studies Chair program is to increase the study of and research into Basque language and culture. The Chair also strengthens the academic presence of Basque culture at Boise State University, throughout Idaho's Treasure Valley community, and beyond. Each year, the Basque Studies section at Boise State invites a scholar to teach a course in their specialty area(s) to graduate students. Boise's Basque Studies Chair is one of several Basque Studies Chairs maintained by the Etxepare Institute around the world.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Igor Leturia, PhD

Visiting Scholar: Eloise Garmendia Bieter Basque Studies Chair

"Past, Present and Future of Translation Technologies for Basque"

September 15th, 2023 – 3:15 pm, Student Union, Simplot AC

Igor Leturia is the Visiting Scholar for the *Eloise Garmendia Bieter Basque Studies Chair* at Boise State University for 2023.

He is also the Keynote Speaker for the *2nd Annual International Conference on Cultural Studies, TRANSLATION: Wor(l)ds in Other Wor(l)ds*, presented by Boise State University, Department of World Languages, and the University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Basque Studies, from September 14 to September 16, 2023. The conference is also sponsored by the Etxepare Institute and Elhuyar Foundation. We give special thanks to the Bidart Family.



Igor Leturia holds an Engineering degree in Computer Science from the University of Mondragon (1989-1993); a degree in Computer Science from the Paul Sabatier University of Toulouse (1993-1994); and an Engineering degree in Systems Electronics from the University of Mondragon (1994-1996). In addition, he holds a Master's Degree in Language Technologies from the University of the Basque Country (2001-2003) and a Master's Degree in Language Analysis and Processing from the University of the Basque Country (2008-2009). Leturia's Ph.D. is from the University of the Basque Country in Language Technologies (2014); his thesis was entitled "The Web as Corpus of Basque."

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During his studies, Leturia worked as a part-time research assistant at the Ikerlan Research Center (1990-1993 and 1994-1996). He is a founding partner of the company SOME Software Innovation, where he worked as CTO (1996- 1998). He also worked at EMUN Kooperatiba Elkarte as ICT Director (1998-2003).

Since 2003, he has been working at Elhuyar Fundazioa in the department of Research and Development in Language Technologies for Basque. He served as director from 2008 to 2014, and since 2014 he has been the director of the Speech Technologies area. For years, his main research focus has been text corpora and, in particular, the use of the web as a source of corpora, which was the subject of his Ph.D. thesis.

In recent years, Leturia has been working on speech technologies, both ASR and TTS. In ASR, he has led the development of Aditu, an automatic transcription/subtitling service for the Basque language, which also allows the automatic translation of these transcriptions and subtitles into different languages. In the field of TTS, he has participated in the creation of neural TTS technology for Basque (monolingual, multilingual, translingual).

Leturia is currently involved in a project that aims to combine ASR, MT, and TTS to provide automatic dubbing and speech-to-speech translation between Basque and other languages. He is participating in the development of MT, TTS and ASR technology for other minority languages such as Occitan and its variants and Aragonese, in collaboration with regional agents, as well as in the development of ASR technology for dialectal variants of Basque.

Boise State University is honored to have Igor Leturia as our 2023 Eloise Garmendia Bieter Basque Studies

Concert: *Shakespeare in Basque*
Joxan Goikoetxea and Olatz Prat
Following Keynote Address at 4:15 pm



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