

A Basque American Literary Pioneer: Robert Laxalt

Centennial Conference (1923-2023) of the University of Nevada, Reno Center for Basque Studies and the Jon Bilbao Basque Library with the collaboration of the REWEST (Research in Western American Literature and Culture) group (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country)

March 9 & 10, 2023

University of Nevada, Reno

Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, Rotunda (MIKC 201)

The aim of this conference is to commemorate the centennial of Robert Laxalt's birth, offering new perspectives on the writings of an author who may be regarded as the dean of Basque American literature and one of the most notable twentieth-century voices in Nevada and the American West. Laxalt's literary career, consisting of seventeen books, is an authoritative reflection on the experiences of the Basques of his time in the United States. The conference will gather scholars and writers from the United States and Europe. They will explore different topics related to Robert Laxalt's writing and career, including his Basque American works, his literary representation of Nevada and the West, his journalistic pieces, his legacy at the University of Nevada, Reno, and his contribution to the cultural and social visibility of Basques in the U.S, to name just some of the major subjects.

March 9, Thursday

MIKC, Rotunda

Program

Time	Sessions	Participants
March 9, Thursday MIKC Rotunda 9 – 9.15 AM	Welcome by organizing committee Dean of the Libraries Dean of the College of Liberal Arts	
9.15 -10.00 AM	Address by Monique Laxalt	
10.00 – 10.45 AM	Robert Laxalt—from deadline journalist to acclaimed author	Warren Lerude
10.45 -11.00 PM	Break	
11.00 – 11.45 AM	From <i>The Basque Hotel</i> to <i>The Governor's Mansion</i> : Place and Identity in Robert Laxalt's Basque Family Trilogy	David Río
12.30 PM – 2.30 PM	Lunch	
2.30 – 3.15 PM	1959	Monika Madinabeitia
3.15 – 4.00 PM	Laxalt and My Lean Years... The Lasting of Influence of Robert Laxalt	Willy Vlautin

March 10, Friday
MIKC Rotunda

Program

Time	Sessions	Participants
March 10, Friday MIKC Rotunda 9 – 9.15 AM	Welcome by organizing committee Dean of Journalism*	
9.15 – 10.00 AM	Teaching <i>Sweet Promised Land</i>	Sandra Ott & Mariann Vaczi
10.00 – 10.45 AM	'You do you, kid!': The Influence of Robert Laxalt	Gretchen Skivington
10.45 - 11.00 AM	Break	
11.00 – 12.30 PM	The Legacy of Robert Laxalt Round table: chaired by David Rio	David Rio JoAnne M Banducci William A. Douglass Monique Laxalt Carmelo Urza Gabriel Urza
12.30 – 1.00 PM	Keynote: Configuring One Another; My Relationship with Bob	William A. Douglass
1.00 PM	Final address by Gabriel Urza*	
	Lunch	
2.30 – 3.30 PM	Bertsolaritza, Improvised Basque Poetry: A Primer	Asier Barandiaran
3.30 – 4.00 PM	Presentation of the book <i>Bertso Eskolak: Basque Improvisational Poetry Schools</i>	Larraitx Ariznabarreta Iñaki Arrieta Baro Xabier Irujo
	Break	
5.00-6.30 PM Wells Fargo	Basque Festival: Bertso saioa and Basque music	Zazpiak Bat dancers Bertsolariak Mikel Petrarena Maddi Agirre
7.30 PM Louis Basque Corner	Bertso afaria (Bertso dinner)	

* Pending confirmation.