

## International Seminar

*Lehendakari Agirre and the Future of Democracy*

### **New Digital Tools to Address Political Polarization**

**14 July 2026 | New York City**

#### **The Foyer Room**

Lee C. Bollinger Forum, 2nd Floor  
Columbia University  
Broadway & West 125th Street

## International Seminar at Columbia University on the 90th Anniversary of the First Basque Government

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the first Basque Government. To commemorate this occasion, Agirre Lehendakaria Center, in collaboration with its strategic partner AC4-Columbia University, has organized an academic seminar in New York to honor its legacy and connect its ideas with today's debate on new digital tools to address political polarization and build new infrastructures for democratic deepening.

The seminar will provide an open discussion on the major challenges facing democratic systems in today's international context, with particular attention to the negative effects of polarization. It will also present the strategies of the Basque Government and the Government of Catalonia in this field.

More specifically, the seminar will introduce the initiatives that AC4-Columbia University and ALC are developing in the digital field and will explore new avenues for collaboration between these institutions on democratic deepening and the management of polarization in digital environments.

The seminar will bring together leading academics, policymakers, and innovators working at the intersection of democracy, conflict resolution, and digital innovation. Participants include Jeffrey Shaman, Vice Dean of the Columbia Climate School; Peter T. Coleman, Beth Fisher-Yoshida, and Josh D. Fisher from AC4-Columbia University; senior representatives of the Basque Government, including Ander Caballero and Asier Aranbarri; researchers from HiTZ - Basque Center for Language Technology (University of the Basque Country); and representatives of the Government of Catalonia, including Clelia Colombo and Professor Gemma Galdón.

## Program

**09:00 -09:30**

Registration and Welcome coffee

**09:30 - 09:45**

Opening Remarks

*Jeffrey Shaman  
Senior Vice Dean  
Columbia Climate School  
Columbia University*

*Peter T. Coleman*  
Professor of Psychology and Education  
Director, Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution  
Executive Director of AC4  
Columbia University

*Beth Fisher-Yoshida*  
Associate Professor and Executive Director  
AC4 - Columbia University

*Joshua D. Fisher*  
Director & Research Scientist  
AC4 - Columbia University

09:45 - 10:00

Institutional perspective from the Basque Government

*Ander Caballero*  
Secretary General for External Action and Global Basque Country

10:00 - 10:15

Institutional perspective from the Government of Catalonia

*Clelia Colomo*  
Director General for Multilateral Affairs

*Gemma Galdón*  
Technology policy analyst specializing in digital ethics and algorithmic accountability.  
Founder and CEO of Eticas

10:15 - 10:45

Digital Tools for Understanding and Addressing Polarization  
AC4 - Columbia University

10:45 - 11:00

Collaborative governance & social listening

*Gorka Espiau*  
K-tool: A Digital Infrastructure for Collective Intelligence and Collaborative Governance

11:00 - 11:15

Artificial Intelligence and Language Technologies for Democratic Governance

*German Rigau*  
*Joseba Fernandez de Landa*  
*Telmo Briones*  
HiTZ: Basque Center for Language Technology

11:15 - 11:50

Open Discussion “*The Future of Democracy: opportunities and risks of digital infrastructures*”

Moderated discussion with all participants

11:50 - 12:00

Closing remarks