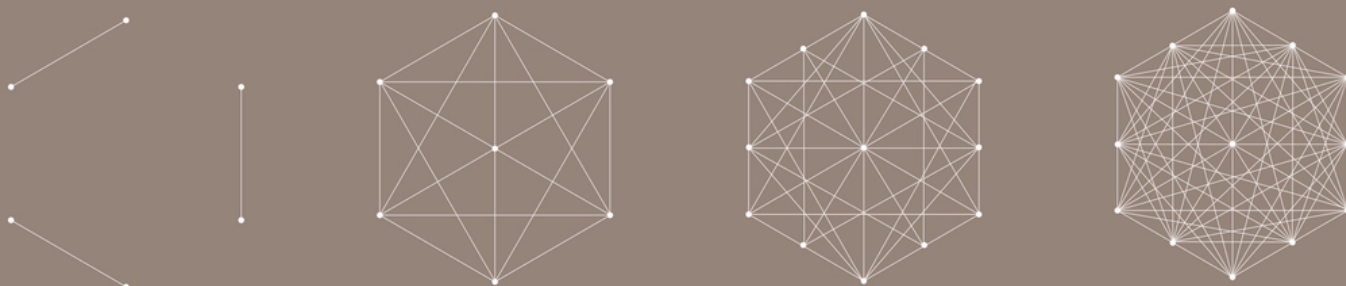


INFORME DE CONCLUSIONES PRELIMINARES

New Digital Tools to Address Political Polarization



INFORME DE CONCLUSIONES PRELIMINARES

I Seminario *“Lehendakari Agirre and the Future of Democracy: New Digital Tools to Address Political Polarization”*

Nueva York, Columbia University | 14 de julio de 2026

Organizado por AC4-Columbia University, Agirre Lehendakaria Center y Gobierno Vasco

Documento de trabajo. Este informe sintetiza las principales ideas compartidas durante el seminario y formula las primeras conclusiones y líneas de continuidad.

1. Objeto y alcance

El seminario reunió a representantes institucionales, equipos académicos y especialistas en inteligencia artificial, análisis del lenguaje, construcción de paz y gobernanza digital. El encuentro partió de la colaboración de largo recorrido entre AC4 y ALC y se orientó a analizar cómo las nuevas herramientas digitales pueden contribuir a comprender la polarización y fortalecer la democracia. Las intervenciones combinaron reflexión institucional, investigación aplicada y presentación de herramientas concretas. Entre ellas destacaron el proyecto Peace Speech, la aplicación BAIT, los modelos lingüísticos y métodos de evaluación desarrollados por HiTZ Zentroa, y la experiencia de ALC en escucha social, inteligencia colectiva y gobernanza colaborativa a través de K Tool y la colaboración mantenida con AC4 en los últimos trece años.





2.Síntesis ejecutiva

Idea central. La tecnología no puede afrontar por sí sola la polarización. Su contribución democrática depende de que se integre en marcos de confianza, gobernanza responsable, participación social, evaluación científica y colaboración sostenida entre instituciones públicas, ámbito académico y sociedad.

- La confianza fue identificada como la condición central para el funcionamiento de la democracia y para una relación sólida entre instituciones y ciudadanía.
- La transformación digital es también una transformación social y política; por ello, los gobiernos deben orientarla activamente desde los derechos humanos, la democracia y el Estado de derecho.

- La inteligencia artificial puede ampliar la capacidad de escucha, análisis y deliberación, pero debe apoyar -y no sustituir- los procesos democráticos y las comunidades basadas en dinámicas de confianza.
- La gobernanza digital exige rendición de cuentas, medición de impactos y atención explícita a las relaciones de poder que configuran tanto las plataformas como sus efectos.
- Euskadi reúne condiciones para actuar como entorno de experimentación responsable, especialmente por su experiencia en gobernanza colaborativa, su ecosistema de innovación y su potencial como contexto multilingües y de lengua minorizada.
- Como primera línea operativa, se propone articular un pequeño equipo ALC-HiTZ -Peace Speech/BAIT (Columbia University) para explorar la incorporación de aprendizajes y funcionalidades de BAIT en K Tool entre septiembre y diciembre de 2026.

3.Principales ejes del debate

3.1 Confianza, democracia y gobernanza colaborativa

La confianza apareció de forma transversal en las intervenciones institucionales y académicas. Se destacó que el futuro de la democracia dependerá menos de la disponibilidad de nuevas tecnologías que generen la capacidad para fortalecer relaciones recíprocas, espacios compartidos y vínculos de confianza entre ciudadanía, comunidades e instituciones.

La experiencia vasca fue presentada como una referencia de interés por la inversión acumulada en gobernanza colaborativa, participación y transformación de conflictos. El concepto de auzolan y la idea de deep governance apuntan a una gobernanza que no se limita a gestionar procedimientos, sino que moviliza capacidades distribuidas ante problemas complejos y refuerza, al mismo tiempo, el bienestar social y la competitividad.



3.2 Tecnología al servicio de conversaciones democráticas regenerativas

Los proyectos Peace Speech y BAIT mostraron posibilidades concretas para analizar el discurso público digital en materia de polarización democrática. Peace Speech aplica aprendizaje automático al análisis de contenidos audiovisuales y del lenguaje, incorporando progresivamente variables complejas como el contexto, la ironía o el sarcasmo. BAIT analiza transcripciones de YouTube y sitúa los contenidos en una escala de respeto a desprecio por otras ideas.

La finalidad planteada no es censurar contenidos, sino ofrecer mayor conciencia sobre las características del discurso que se consume y produce. La analogía con las etiquetas nutricionales presentes en EE. UU. (pero también en otros contextos como el vasco) resume esta orientación: proporcionar información comprensible que pueda influir en comportamientos y favorecer conversaciones menos dañinas.

El debate subrayó que estas herramientas necesitan acompañarse de educación cívica, participación pública y mecanismos institucionales de adopción. También surgieron preguntas aún abiertas sobre escalabilidad, soporte multilingüe, y condiciones para su despliegue responsable.

3.3 Gobernanza digital, poder y rendición de cuentas

La discusión desplazó el foco desde la tecnología como fin en si misma hacia las decisiones de gobernanza que determinan sus incentivos y efectos. Las plataformas actuales tienden a optimizar la atención y la interacción, no necesariamente la calidad de la conversación pública. Al mismo tiempo, muchos daños permanecen invisibles porque no se miden de manera sistemática.

De ello se desprende la necesidad de combinar regulación, evaluación de impacto, transparencia y rendición de cuentas. La gobernanza digital es, por tanto, una cuestión democrática y no únicamente un reto técnico. Además, cualquier intervención debe reconocer las relaciones de poder que atraviesan los datos, las infraestructuras, los centros de datos y las decisiones sobre diseño y despliegue.



3.4 Inteligencia artificial, lenguaje y evaluación científica

HiTZ destacó el lenguaje como una tecnología fundamental para construir conocimiento, identidad, cultura y realidad. La inteligencia artificial abre nuevas posibilidades de interacción con el lenguaje, pero obliga a formular correctamente las preguntas, explicitar los objetivos y validar científicamente los resultados.

Los ejemplos de LATXA, las aplicaciones de verificación, la investigación en IA aplicada y el análisis narrativo desarrollado en Urdaibai mostraron el potencial de modelos abiertos y confiables. Los contextos multilingües y de lenguas minorizadas pueden constituir espacios especialmente valiosos para probar tecnologías democráticas más inclusivas, siempre que se eviten sesgos y se garantice una evaluación rigurosa.

3.5 Inteligencia colectiva y espacios de participación

Las intervenciones finales señalaron que la inteligencia colectiva debería integrarse de forma estable en la práctica democrática. La tecnología puede ayudar a ampliar la escucha y la participación, pero necesita insertarse en espacios físicos y digitales confiables y en procesos públicos cotidianos. La diversidad, la apertura al aprendizaje y la búsqueda compartida de evidencias fueron identificadas como condiciones para evitar que las herramientas refuercen fragmentaciones existentes.

4. Conclusiones preliminares

1. La confianza constituye la infraestructura básica de la democracia. Las herramientas digitales solo aportarán valor público si fortalecen relaciones, reciprocidad y capacidad institucional para escuchar y responder a las inquietudes ciudadanas de la manera más rápida y efectiva posible.

2. Tecnología, innovación y gobernanza deben evolucionar conjuntamente. No es suficiente adaptar las instituciones a tecnologías ya diseñadas; los poderes públicos deben contribuir a orientar su desarrollo y crear condiciones para una transformación digital responsable.

3. La inteligencia artificial debe ampliar la agencia democrática, no reemplazarla. Su función más prometedora reside en apoyar la conciencia crítica, la escucha, la participación y la deliberación social y humana.

4. La medición del impacto social es imprescindible. La evaluación debe atender tanto a la precisión técnica como a los efectos sobre derechos, relaciones de poder, confianza, inclusión y calidad de la conversación pública.

5. Los problemas democráticos complejos exigen colaboración interdisciplinar y multisectorial. La combinación de capacidades de ALC, HiTZ y AC4/Peace Speech ofrece una base relevante para conectar investigación, desarrollo tecnológico y aplicación institucional.

6. Los gobiernos pueden desempeñar un papel más activo. Además de regular, pueden facilitar entornos seguros de experimentación, aportar capital semilla, promover estándares de responsabilidad y favorecer la incorporación de resultados a la práctica pública.

7.Euskadi puede funcionar como laboratorio vivo de innovación democrática. Su experiencia en gobernanza colaborativa, su ecosistema institucional y científico, y su realidad lingüística ofrecen condiciones diferenciales para desarrollar y evaluar soluciones confiables y transferibles.

5.Primer línea de continuidad: BAIT y K Tool

Aunque el trabajo se encuentra en una fase inicial, el seminario permitió formalizar una oportunidad concreta de colaboración aplicada. Se propone constituir un equipo de trabajo reducido integrado por ALC, HiTZ y el equipo de Peace Speech/BAIT, con la participación de Harry West y su equipo, para estudiar cómo incorporar a K Tool aprendizajes metodológicos y componentes derivados de BAIT.

Horizonte de trabajo. La colaboración iniciará su colaboración en septiembre y desarrollará esta fase inicial hasta diciembre de 2026, con el apoyo del capital semilla previsto por el Gobierno Vasco. El propósito de la fase inicial es generar un marco compartido de trabajo y valorar progresivamente el posible encaje de los aprendizajes de BAIT en K Tool.

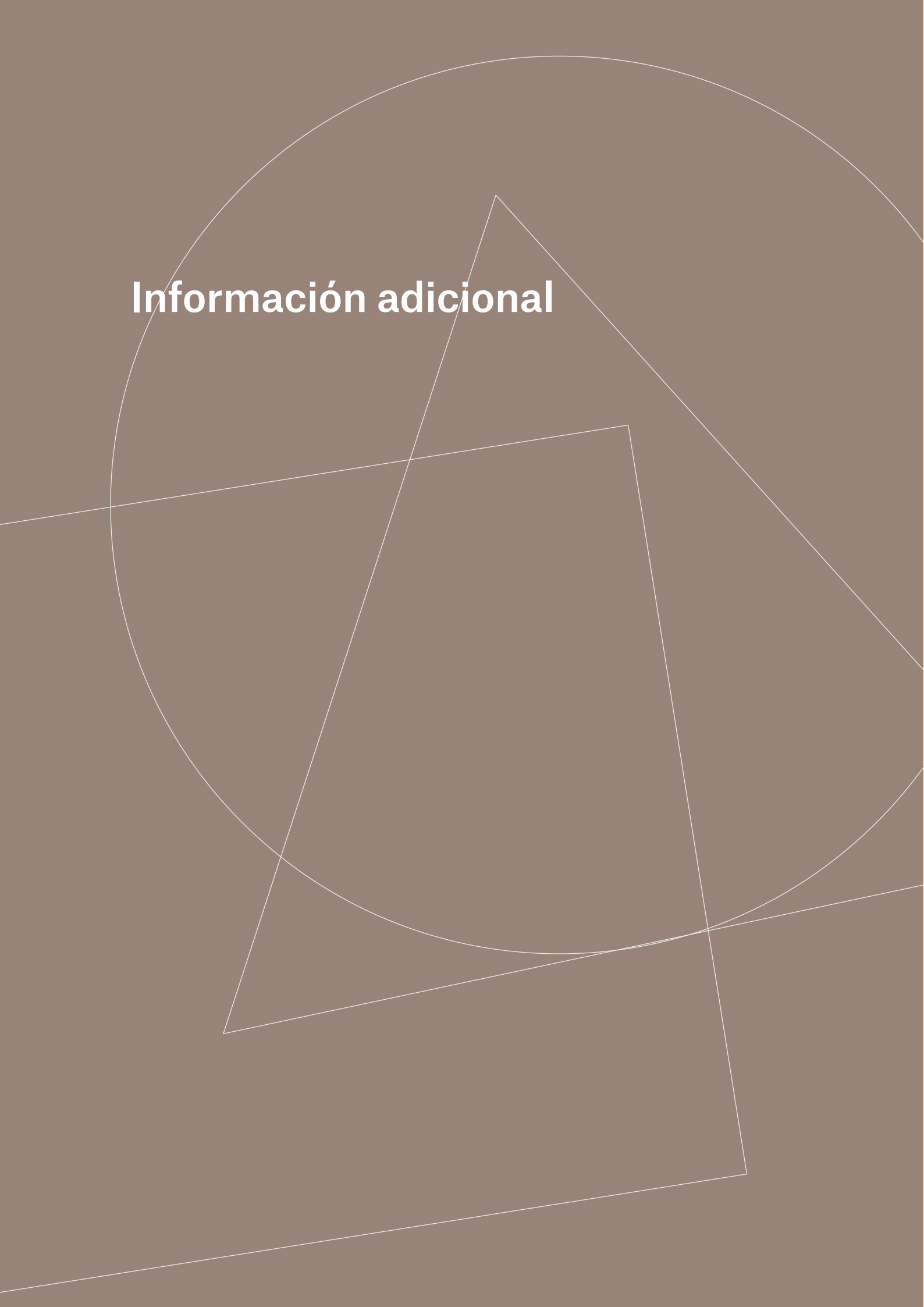
6. Próximos pasos propuestos

- **Septiembre de 2026:** Despliegue del equipo de trabajo y definición conjunta de su alcance, organización y prioridades.
- **Septiembre - diciembre de 2026:** Desarrollo del trabajo exploratorio, de acuerdo con las decisiones que adopte el propio equipo.
- **Durante este periodo:** Celebración de un workshop conjunto. Su fecha, formato y lugar están todavía pendientes de definición.
- **Al cierre del periodo:** Puesta en común de los aprendizajes obtenidos y valoración de los posibles pasos posteriores.



7. Consideración final

El principal resultado del seminario no es una solución tecnológica cerrada, sino la consolidación de una agenda compartida: combinar innovación tecnológica, gobernanza democrática, confianza, evidencia científica y colaboración institucional de largo plazo. La articulación inicial entre ALC, HiTZ y Peace Speech/BAIT ofrece una oportunidad concreta para trasladar esta agenda a la práctica, generar aprendizajes durante 2026 y valorar posteriormente su potencial de aplicación a mayor escala.



Información adicional

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 and the Government of
Catalonia**

Ander Caballero

Secretary General for External Action and Global
Basque Country

Clelia Colombo

Director General for Multilateral Affairs

**10:00 - 10:30 Digital Tools for Understanding and
Addressing Polarization**

AC4 - Columbia University

**10:30 - 10:45 Collaborative governance & social
listening**

Gorka Espiau

Director, Agirre Lehendakaria Center
*K-tool: A Digital Infrastructure for Collective
Intelligence and Collaborative Governance*

**10:45 - 11:00 Digital Governance and Responsible
Technology**

Xabier Unanue

Directorate of Legislative Development and
Regulatory Oversight, Basque Government

Gemma Galdón

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

**11:00 - 11:15 Artificial Intelligence and Language
Technologies for Democratic Governance**

Germán Rigau

Deputy Director, HiTZ Center

Joseba Fernandez de Landa

Researcher (FPI Fellowship), HITZ Center

Telmo Briones

Researcher, HITZ Center

**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

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet provides brief biographies of the speakers, participants and organizing team attending the seminar. The event brings together researchers, policymakers and practitioners working on democracy, conflict resolution, artificial intelligence, climate, public innovation and international cooperation.

PARTICIPANTS



ANDREW KRUCZKIEWICZ

Senior Staff Associate and Lecturer, Columbia Climate School

Andrew Kruczkiewicz works on climate risk, remote sensing and early warning systems. His work links climate science with humanitarian action and disaster preparedness. He collaborates with academic, public and international organizations.



ANDER CABALLERO

Secretary General for External Action and Global Basque Country, Basque Government

Ander Caballero leads the Basque Government's external action and Global Basque Country agenda. His work focuses on international relations, public diplomacy and the projection of the Basque Country abroad. He also represents Euskadi in European and international forums.

PARTICIPANTS

**ANDREA BARTOLI**

President, Sant'Egidio Foundation for Peace and Dialogue and Senior Associate Research Scholar at AC4 – Columbia University

Andrea Bartoli is an internationally recognized expert in peacemaking, conflict resolution and genocide prevention, he has held senior academic leadership positions in diplomacy and peace studies.

**ANNE-CÉCILE DEQUEN**

Director, Government Relations, Communications and Public Affairs, Québec Government Office in New York

Anne-Cécile Dequen works at the Québec Government Office in New York. Her work focuses on government relations, communications and public affairs. The office represents Québec's interests in the United States and supports institutional, cultural and economic relations.

**ARAN ACHA**

Director, UN Etxea – UNESCO Association of the Basque Country

Aran Acha has extensive experience leading national and international initiatives on sustainable development, transformative education and human rights, and has worked with organizations linked to the United Nations system in Southeast Asia and Europe since 2007.

PARTICIPANTS

**ASIER ARANBARRI**

Director of Social Innovation and Agenda 2030, Basque Government

Asier Aranbarri leads work on social innovation and Agenda 2030 within the Basque Government. His work focuses on democratic innovation, sustainability, collaborative governance and public policy transformation. He also has experience in public institutions and teaches International Relations at the University of Deusto.

**BETH FISHER-YOSHIDA**

Professor of Professional Practice and Program Director, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, Columbia University

Beth Fisher-Yoshida is an expert in negotiation, conflict resolution and communication. She teaches and writes on dialogue, conflict systems and social transformation. Her work connects academic learning with practical peacebuilding and leadership processes.

**CLELIA COLOMBO**

Director General for Multilateral Affairs, Government of Catalonia

Clelia Colombo leads multilateral affairs for the Government of Catalonia. Her work focuses on international relations, democratic innovation and public policy. She has also worked on citizen participation, digital governance and public administration.

PARTICIPANTS

**EIDER INUNCIAGA**

City Councillor, Bilbao City Council

Eider Inunciaga is a Councillor for Basque Language, Citizen Services and Participation, the 2030 Agenda and International Affairs at the Bilbao City Council. She has extensive international experience in human rights, sustainable development and international cooperation, having worked with UNESCO, the University of Deusto and BBK Kuna.

**ERICA MATSUMOTO**

Senior Director, Global Impact Lab, Office of Engagement and Impact, Columbia Climate School

Erica Matsumoto works on partnerships, innovation and social impact at Columbia Climate School. Her background includes public-private collaboration, urban innovation and strategic partnerships. She supports initiatives that connect institutions, knowledge and impact.

ESTIBALIZ URCELAY

Technical Specialist in External Action, Basque Government

Estibaliz Urcelay works in External Action at the Basque Government, supporting international relations, institutional coordination and global agendas. Her work has been connected to the Basque Government's external relations activity, including international cooperation, multilateral engagement and the projection of Euskadi's policy experience in global forums such as the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development networks.

PARTICIPANTS

**GEMMA GALDÓN***Founder and CEO, Eticas Foundation*

Gemma Galdón is a policy analyst specialized in digital ethics, algorithmic accountability and responsible AI. She advises governments, institutions and organizations on technology, rights and public interest. She founded Eticas to audit and improve algorithmic systems.

**GERMÁN RIGAU***Professor, University of the Basque Country (EHU); HiTZ - Basque Center for Language Technology*

PhD, is Deputy Director of HiTZ - Basque Center for Language Technology and Associate Professor at the University of the Basque Country. An internationally recognized expert in natural language processing and artificial intelligence, he has led numerous European and national research projects and has played a key role in advancing language technologies in Spain.

**GORKA ESPIAU***Director, Agirre Lehendakaria Center, University of the Basque Country*

Gorka Espiau leads the Agirre Lehendakaria Center. His work focuses on social innovation, democratic governance and systems transformation. He has worked with governments, foundations and international organizations to design new approaches to territorial development, public innovation and democratic renewal.

PARTICIPANTS

**HARRY WEST***Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia Engineering*

Harry West works at the intersection of design, data and behavior change. At Columbia Engineering, he develops human-centered design and innovation education. His work connects technology, entrepreneurship and practical problem solving.

**HONGYING LI***Senior Program Manager, Columbia Climate School*

Hongying Li has an interdisciplinary background in conservation, public health and social sciences. Her work focuses on One Health, conservation and collaboration across communities and institutions. She brings experience in research and program management.

**JACQUELINE M KLOPP***Director, Center for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia Climate School*

Jacqueline Klopp is Director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at Columbia University. A social scientist, her research focuses on sustainable mobility, urban governance, climate and technology, with a particular emphasis on equity and accountability. She has led pioneering initiatives on open transport data and urban innovation across Africa and advises cities on sustainable urban development.

PARTICIPANTS

**JEFFREY SHAMAN**

Senior Vice Dean, Columbia Climate School; Professor of Climate

Jeffrey Shaman is Senior Vice Dean of the Columbia Climate School and Professor of Climate and Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University. His research focuses on the transmission and forecasting of infectious diseases and the impacts of climate and weather on human health. He develops advanced mathematical models to better understand and predict disease dynamics and public health risks.

**JOAN CAMILO LÓPEZ**

Researcher and practitioner in peacebuilding and social transformation

Joan López works on peacebuilding, community processes and social transformation, with a strong focus on Colombia. He has collaborated with Columbia University colleagues on urban peace and youth leadership. His work connects research, policy and community practice.

**JOSEBA FERNÁNDEZ DE LANDA**

Researcher, University of the Basque Country (EHU); HiTZ – Basque Center for Language Technology

Joseba Fernández de Landa is a researcher working on artificial intelligence and language technologies. His work focuses on natural language processing, text analysis and digital tools for knowledge extraction. He contributes to applied research at HiTZ.

PARTICIPANTS

**JOSHUA D. FISHER**

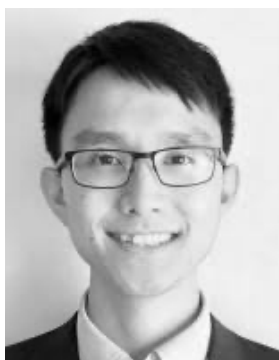
Director, Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4), Columbia Climate School, Columbia University

Joshua D. Fisher is Director of the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4) at Columbia University. His research focuses on the links between environmental governance, natural resource management and conflict prevention. He has worked extensively in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America with governments, international organizations and conservation initiatives on sustainable development and peacebuilding.

**JULIA PIENKOWSKA**

Project Coordinator, Dean's Office, Columbia Climate School

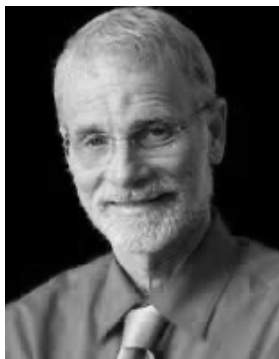
Julia Pienkowska is a Project Coordinator in the Dean's Office and the Office of Engagement & Impact at Columbia Climate School. She supports strategic initiatives that strengthen collaboration across research, education and public engagement, with a background in development sociology and environmental policy from Cornell University.

**KENTARO SHINTAKU**

Consultant, Cooperative Nuclear Disarmament and Sustainability Initiative, Columbia Climate School

Kentaro Shintaku works on nuclear disarmament education, peace and sustainability. He has contributed to projects connected to the Columbia Climate School and the Sant'Egidio Foundation for Peace and Dialogue. He is also pursuing doctoral studies at Teachers College, Columbia University.

PARTICIPANTS

**LARRY LIEBOVITCH**

Professor of Physics and Psychology, Queens College, CUNY; Adjunct Senior Research Scientist, AC4

Larry Liebovitch studies complex systems using mathematical and physical models. His work applies complexity science to physics, biology, psychology and social systems. At AC4, he contributes to research on cooperation, conflict and complexity.

**LIERNI EZENARRO**

Head of Institutional Relations, Agirre Lehendakaria Center, University of the Basque Country

Lierni Ezenarro coordinates institutional relations and internal management processes at the Agirre Lehendakaria Center. Her work includes partnerships, event coordination, project follow-up and institutional communication with local and international partners.

**MARIA CONCEPCIÓN (CONCHI) ARANGUREN**

Delegate of the Basque Government to the United States and Canada

Conchi Aranguren represents the Basque Government in the United States and Canada. Her work focuses on institutional relations, internationalization and building connections between Euskadi and North America. She has a strong background in industry and global markets.

PARTICIPANTS

**MARIA EDUARDA GOMES**

International Projects Advisor, General Superintendency for Economic and Social Development (SGDES)

Maria Eduarda Gomes will participate in the seminar as an invited attendee. Her full institutional affiliation and current role should be confirmed before external circulation of the booklet. This entry can be updated once the preferred institutional profile or short biography is received.

**MIKEL HIDALGO**

Project Coordinator, Directorate for Social Innovation and the 2030 Agenda, Basque Government

Mikel Hidalgo is Project Coordinator for Social Innovation and the 2030 Agenda at the Office of the President of the Basque Government. His work focuses on promoting collaborative governance, democratic innovation and cross-sector initiatives that advance the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen public sector innovation.

**NAROA ATXURRA**

Director of Agenda 2030 and Internationalization, Bilbao City Council

Naroa Atxurra works on Agenda 2030 and internationalization at Bilbao City Council. Her role connects local governance, sustainability and international city networks. She supports strategic initiatives that link Bilbao with global agendas.

PARTICIPANTS

**NEREA ARRIETA**

Institutional Affairs Officer, Delegation of the Basque Country to the United States and Canada

Nerea Arrieta is Institutional Relations Officer at the Basque Government Delegation to the United States and Canada, based in New York. She supports the Basque Government's institutional engagement in North America, coordinating international partnerships, events and initiatives, including collaborations with the United Nations.

**PEGGY CHAO**

Department Administrator, AC4, Columbia Climate School

Peggy Chao is Director of Operations at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. She holds a master's degree in international business from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in economics from New York University. Her professional background includes operations, data analysis, finance and business management.

**PETER LOGE**

Director, School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University

Peter Loge is Professor of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University, where he directs the Project on Ethics in Political Communication. A leading expert in political communication and public leadership, he has more than 30 years of experience advising governments, public institutions and elected officials, including senior roles in the U.S. Congress, the Obama Administration and the United States Institute of Peace.

PARTICIPANTS

**PETER T. COLEMAN**

Professor of Psychology and Education, Columbia University; Founder, AC4

Dr. Peter Coleman is Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University and Executive Director of the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4). An internationally recognized scholar of conflict resolution and sustainable peace, his research focuses on conflict intelligence, political polarization and the dynamics of complex social systems. He is the author and editor of numerous influential books and publications on conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

**PIERRE GENTINE**

Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, Columbia University

Pierre Gentine is Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University. His research focuses on climate, water and ecosystem interactions, with particular emphasis on droughts, extreme weather and climate change. He is the recipient of multiple early career awards from NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

**RITA RICOBELLI**

Sustainability and sport expert

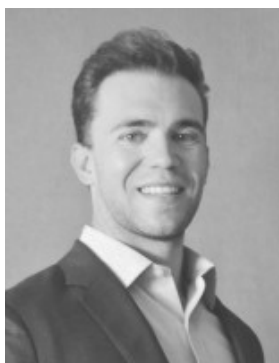
Rita Ricobelli is a researcher and advisor on sport and sustainability at Columbia University's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED). Her work explores the role of sport in advancing sustainable development, social inclusion and youth engagement.

PARTICIPANTS

**TASHI RABGEY**

Research Professor of International Affairs, George Washington University

Tashi Rabgey is Research Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where she directs the Research Initiative on Multinational States (RIMS). Her research focuses on statehood, territorial politics, multilevel governance and constitutional autonomy, with particular expertise on Tibet, China and comparative models of self-government.

**TAYLOR REAK**

Government Relations Attaché / Québec Government Office in New York

Taylor Reak serves as Government Relations Attaché at the Québec Government Office in New York, where he supports the Government of Québec's institutional relations with public authorities and strategic partners in the United States. His work focuses on strengthening intergovernmental collaboration and advancing Québec's international engagement through diplomatic and governmental partnerships.

**TELMO BRIONES**

Researcher, HiTZ – Basque Center for Language Technology, EHU

Telmo Briones is a researcher in language technologies and artificial intelligence. His work contributes to the development of tools for analysing text, language and knowledge. He is connected to applied research at HiTZ and EHU.

PARTICIPANTS

**THOMAS ASHER**

Director, Research and Engagement, Columbia World Projects, Columbia University

Thomas Asher is Director of Research and Global Engagement at Columbia World Projects and a Fellow of Practice at Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought. His work focuses on democratic participation, civic engagement and public innovation, connecting academic research with governments, civil society and policymakers to strengthen democratic institutions and inclusive governance.

**XABIER UNANUE**

Director of Legislative Development and Regulatory Control, Basque Government

Xabier Unanue Ortega is Director of Legislative Development and Regulatory Control at the Basque Government. A lawyer by training, he specializes in legislative development, regulatory quality and institutional governance. He is currently pursuing a PhD on digitalization and governance.

