

PRESENTS:

## *~Faculty Speaker Series~*

Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am - via Zoom

*Join us Week 6 for our second Faculty Speaker Event of the quarter!*

Our second speaker this quarter is Professor Unai Nafarrate  
See a brief bio below

### **Professor Unai Nafarrate**



A 17 years old Unai started organizing folk festivals and teaching Basque language, motivated by the question, what's behind people's choices to pick up a language, and... discriminate against another one? Certainly, resonating with a group of speakers draws from how they make you feel, and for that, the act of seeing and hearing become instrumental. Seeing stories being performed, e.g. acted and danced, have led every step that I took into school and my jobs, including sociolinguistics and language instruction.

While being involved in dance, I graduated with a degree in Basque Linguistics and Literature, followed by a Masters in Linguistics from UCSB. This degree that focused on identity construction and second language acquisition (SLA) taught me how performative and meaning-producing the act of speaking is. Then, I earned another Masters in Production of Live Entertainment, because I wanted to enable new spaces for entertainment, and I just can't stop thinking in images. My daily job meets my passion and the result is enabling visibility of Basque culture in the classroom and other environments such as festivals. Hopefully soon TV too, as I am getting yet another degree in Writing for Television. Learning never stops because dreaming never stops and the show must go on.