



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FIU



Lecture
**“Basque and Catalan
 Perspectives
 on Language Promotion”**



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**Department of
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**Cooperation of the
 Graduate Program in
 Linguistics**

Tuesday, April 1st, 2008

11:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

**FIU - University Park
 Green Library—GL 220**

Dr. Colin H. Williams

***Research Professor
 School of Welsh, Cardiff University, UK***

This presentation addresses Basque and Catalan efforts at language promotion and regulation from a broader EU perspective. It will critique current activities within language planning from the perspective of social justice and deliberative democracy. While acknowledging the very constructive work undertaken by language promoters in several parts of the EU, it will nevertheless draw attention to several structural barriers which impede the full realization of language revitalization within different sectors of the public sector and the economy writ large. Drawing on examples of both good practice and reluctant engagement from the Basque Country and Catalonia, it will seek to make the case that language promotion and regulation should always be mindful of two significant catalysts for success, namely the acute involvement of civil society and the ability of educational institutions and training agencies to grow skills capacity and competence in order to deliver the new services and opportunities which targeted promotion and legislation allow. In many cases far too much reliance is put on political propaganda and rhetoric rather than programmed activities and pragmatic adjustments to a rapidly changing social order and multilingual context.

For Additional information:

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