This talk focuses on change in root restrictions on Basque allocutive morphemes---person clitics marking non-thematic addressees. Recent work has shown that allocutive languages fall into one of two broad classes: those in which allocutive morphemes are restricted to root contexts and those in which they appear in finite embeddings. Basque is particularly useful as a laboratory variety for probing the nature of this cross-lectal difference in that (i) Basque dialects vary in whether allocutive morphemes may be embedded, and (ii) some dialects show change in progress toward loss of the root restriction.

In this talk, I report on results from a recent production and judgment survey with 392 self-reported Basque allocutive users intended to probe speaker-related predictors of change toward innovative embedded patterns. The results suggest little evidence that context of acquisition conditions the availability of innovative forms suggesting that the change is unrelated to change in the quality of learning input. The results, moreover, fail to support the claim that the availability of embedded allocutivity correlates across speakers with acceptance of embedded vocatives, contra Haddican & Etxeberria (2022). We take the different cross-speaker distribution of allocutive morphemes and vocatives to reflect partially different representations for these forms, with vocative morphemes bearing richer functional structure.