

The UMBC Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Program Presents

Fandoms, Fan Translation, and Memes in Language Education

A virtual seminar
session

Monday
April 28
4:30–5:30 pm
Eastern US Time

Register for this
virtual session [here](#)



Boris Vazquez-Calvo (PhD)
University of Málaga, Spain

In this talk, I explore how fandom culture, fan translation, and memes transform language education. Drawing on insights from the New Literacy Studies and the concept of affinity identity, I examine how practices like fansubbing, scanlation, and fanfiction found in digital affinity spaces empower learners to learn and use languages, negotiate meaning, co-construct knowledge, and shape their identities.

By the end of the talk, you'll walk away with preliminary, practical ideas for integrating fan practices like fan translation and meme creation into your language teaching, blending formal and informal learning to create engaging, digitally informed environments.

Boris Vazquez-Calvo is an assistant professor of language education (English and Spanish). His research explores technology-mediated language learning, informal language learning, and digital literacies, including fan practices that foster language use, development, and socialization in online environments. Recently, his work has focused on preservice language teachers' identities and digital literacies.