
Foreword

The review *Autonomies. Revista Catalana de Dret Públic* resumes its periodical publication and does so with a new name: ***Revista catalana de dret public***. Resuming publication does not just entail recovering the spirit of a pioneering magazine in its field in our country; it also involves the recognition of the task performed by all those who made it possible and who have worked throughout the years to ensure its continuity. We now take up the baton, pushing ahead with a publication that broke new ground in examining, from a legal perspective, the problems raised by the development of the State of Autonomies provided for by the Constitution of 1978. And now, just as then, we maintain our desire to be co-participants in that development. For this reason, we offer the pages of the *Revista* as a forum for debate on scholarly opinion and an information clearinghouse on any and all aspects that may be of interest to those who concern themselves with the territorial organization model of the State, and further still, with the general functioning of the State or general operations from a State perspective.

The review now takes on the name of ***Revista catalana de dret public***; it does so with the explicit intention of demonstrating that almost three decades of development of the State of Autonomies and the progressive consolidation of self-government have made it possible to recover an important corpus of public law. And this—at least that is how we see it—opens consider perspectives for our debate and our approach.

Indeed, it would seem that the time when the main and practically exclusive concern was to implement the decentralized functioning of the State is behind us. This phase has been completed, and we have embarked on a new period, a period that is indebted to the phase that preceded it, a period of a general rethinking of the very foundations on which territorial autonomy has developed. This entails the need to incorporate a more general theoretical approach, an approach that will include new, commonly felt perspectives, an approach that will place us at the core of the public law system in all its dimensions: internal, central government, European and international. These dimensions are the premises for any all-embracing approach to public law.

Towards this end, the ***Revista catalana de dret public*** shall appear semi-annually, in hard copy and in an electronic format. In the former, the various contributions shall be published in their original language. The electronic format, on the other hand, shall have two versions: one that shall be published entirely in Catalan and another that shall be in Spanish, as well as in the original language of the article if different.

Each edition of the review shall be devoted to a specific topic, and with this end in mind, specialists on the specific subject area selected shall be invited to submit a paper dealing with one of the fundamental or most controversial aspects of the topic chosen. Two other specialists shall present a critical review of the literature and the case law on the topic under discussion. Furthermore, each issue will have a certain number of pages set aside for contributions received by the review having to do with any of the disciplines that make up public law.

In accordance with international criteria, all papers published shall be refereed by two members of the review's Advisory Council or Editorial Board, or by outside experts. Our aim here is, understandably, not only to achieve an optimal level of quality, but also to attain a good level of overall consistency in each issue; such consistency shall redound to everyone's benefit.

These are, then, the objectives and the resources with which we launch a new chapter in the history of the *Revista catalana de dret public*. We do so to contribute to a pluralistic debate having a diversity of outlooks, and, consequently, a diversity of proposals.