



**THE ALBERT CALSAMIGLIA SYMPOSIUM ON
RONALD DWORKIN'S JUSTICE FOR HEDGEHOGS**

POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY

Barcelona, 6 May 2011

OPENING REMARKS

It is a great honor and pleasure to open this Symposium today on the last book of Ronald Dworkin, *Justice for Hedgehogs*. As you know, Ronald Dworkin is the most distinguished legal philosopher in the last forty years. All the relevant debates in legal philosophy after H.L.A. Hart have Dworkin's ideas in the core. For instance, *Taking Rights Seriously* (1977) has almost ten thousand citations in Harzing's Publish or Perish, this recent and marvellous tool for academic gossip. His contribution to moral and political philosophy is also crucial. In 2011 he published *Justice for Hedgehogs*, a general overview on practical philosophy articulated for a powerful and controversial idea: the unity of value.

The Symposium is the most overwhelming conclusion to the seminar which has been taken place in the last months in our University, perfectly organized by Prof. Andrew Williams. With the elegance of hedgehogs, as it were. It is really a pleasure to have Andrew with us.

On the other hand, this is not the first visit of Dworkin to Pompeu Fabra University. In 1992, the year of Barcelona's Olympic Games, Dworkin gave a seminar here, in another building, invited by Prof. Albert Calsamiglia, one of the founding fathers of this University, created in 1990. Sadly, Albert died in 2000, when he only was 51 years old. However, the international activities of our Research group are called with this name in his memory. Albert was the responsible of the Spanish translation (in 1984) of *Taking Rights Seriously*, the introductory of Dworkinian account among us and the Spanish book contains a very insightful introductory essay. Our experience of his lost is very painful.

As it is well-known, the title of the book evokes a verse of an archaic Greek poet Archilochus which Prof. Isaiah Berlin did famous:

The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing.

Whereas Berlin preferred foxes and, with them, the plurality of value; Dworkin passionately defends the unity of value. To conclude, I would like to remind our verse of our contemporary poet, Pablo Neruda, who in the Ode to Federico García Lorca, only one year before Lorca's murder, wrote: 'y van volando al cielo los erizos', what is to say: 'And the hedgehogs go flying to heaven'.

Prof. Dworkin, in the name of all of us, thank you very much for your philosophical contribution and, particularly, for your last book.

José Juan Moreso