

Parlament de Laia de Nadal, rectora de la UPF, a l'acte d'investidura de Vandana Shiva com a doctora honoris causa per la Universitat

Dr. Vandana Shiva,
Honorable Minister of Equality and Feminisms,
Rector Oriol Amat,
President Montserrat Vendrell,
Dr. Núria Almiron,
Members of the governing team,
Members of the university community,
Friends,

It's truly a great honor and privilege to stand before you today as we conclude this momentous occasion: the conferment of an honorary doctorate to Dr. Vandana Shiva, the twenty-first individual to receive this recognition from our university.

Dr. Shiva, please allow me to extend you my deepest gratitude, on behalf of Pompeu Fabra University, for accepting our highest distinction and joining the esteemed community of doctors at our university. Having you among our members makes us a better university.

I am absolutely sure that professor Oriol Amat, the former rector of our university, shares this feeling with me. We all thank him and his governing team for initiating and leading the first steps of the awarding process that we culminate today with this event.

I would also like to thank Dr. Núria Almiron for her outstanding laudatio. Hers was not an easy task, for Dr. Shiva's trajectory can hardly be summed up in a few words.

However, she has done a fantastic job at synthesizing her many contributions to knowledge, her efforts in preserving biodiversity, and her advocacy for the vulnerable communities.

A moment ago, I presented her with a small package consisting of seeds of five different types of wild, native plants to Catalonia cultivated by Eixarcolant. As you

have seen in the video, the work and values of this association mirror those of the inspiring initiative led by Dr. Shiva.

With this small gesture, our aim was to celebrate your vision, expressively encapsulated in the well-known sentence "These seeds belong to everyone but cannot be claimed by anyone". Following the tradition in several cultures, we also want them to represent our determination and will to build a common future together.

Let me add something else.

I think these seeds offer a good metaphor for some of the principles that shape who we are as a university and that should inform the path we have to travel in the coming years.

First of all, like these seeds, in order to grow strong, our university needs to concentrate its efforts on those elements, those nutrients, that are essential. This means knowing what and how to prioritise, and also knowing how to take opportunities. As energetically and efficiently as possible. It is easier to grow stronger if the environment is fertile and rich, and that is why the university must not only adapt to its environment, but also contribute to making it more competitive and richer. The UPF will be stronger, if the ecosystem of institutions that surrounds us is stronger.

Secondly, these seeds can also be interpreted as an expression of the need to look to the future and to enjoy the journey without haste, with patience. It is important to value all that we do today, and the work of all those who make it possible. But it is essential to be aware that a large part of the meaning of everything we do now lies in the future, in the impact that our actions will have in the medium and long term. They are also seeds that speak to us of the need to understand our role in terms of knowledge transfer, in terms of our contribution to others.

Thirdly, there is no point in denying that the future of these seeds does not depend on them alone. Their growth is conditioned by many factors that are unpredictable or difficult to control. Likewise, the growth and consolidation of our university does not depend solely on us and must face some uncertainties. But just like plants, the chances of a successful completion of this process are higher if all its components work well and in a coordinated manner. Every university, including Pompeu Fabra University, is above all a collective and collaborative project.

I don't want to go on any longer. Please allow me to finish my brief speech thanking again Dr. Shiva. Your work and your trajectory are a reminder of the interconnections between environmental stewardship and societal wellbeing, between each of us as individuals and the community we belong to. Welcome to the community of Pompeu Fabra University, from today on your university and, whenever you want or need it, your home also.

Thank you all very much.