



**Flocel Sabaté.** He was born in Igualada in 1962 and was trained at the Universitat de Barcelona, where he earned a Bachelor's in 1988 and a doctorate in 1993. He started his teaching career in 1989 as an assistant professor in secondary school. Four years later, in 1991, he joined the Universitat de Lleida as an interim full professor, and he has carried out

his academic activity there since then, first as a full professor (1995-2002) and later as the Chair in Mediaeval History (since 2002).

His research and popularisation of scholarship have focused on the late Middle Ages in Catalonia, a period in which he has carefully analysed four aspects. The first is a study of aggressiveness and social behaviours, the mechanisms of horizontal solidarity, the formation of urban and rural gangs and the initiatives undertaken by the public authorities to contain social upheaval. In this first thematic field, his most important contribution has been a revision of the way the militias worked and an analysis of their use by peasants as a mechanism of resistance against seigniorial pressure. His second field of scholarly interest is the administration of justice. In order to rigorously analyse crimes and their repression, he has made a concerted effort to study the competences and operations of numerous courts that coexisted in Catalonia during the late Middle Ages at all levels, from local to statewide. His third field of work has consisted of the territorial organisation of power, in which he has studied different administrative divisions, from towns and rural parishes to the Principality of Catalonia. In this area, his reflections on the origin and evolution of *veguerías* have been particularly innovative. Finally, Professor Sabaté has also opened up a fourth field of reflection on identity as the cohesive factor in society and the role of collective memory in constructing this identity.

His scholarly research has generated an extensive, high-quality published output consisting of over 380 titles. He has published nine books and coordinated two more, including most prominently *L'expansió territorial de Catalunya (segles IX-XII): conquesta o repoblació?* (Lleida, 1996), *El territori de la Catalunya Medieval. Percepció de l'espai i divisió territorial al llarg de l'edat mitjana* (Barcelona, 1997), *Història de Lleida. Alta edat mitjana* (Llei-

da, 2003), *Cerimònies fúnebres i poder municipal a la Catalunya baixmedieval* (Barcelona, 2003), *La feudalización de la sociedad catalana* (Granada, 2007), *El sometent a la Catalunya medieval* (Barcelona, 2007) and *Fin del mundo y el nuevo mundo. El encaje ideológico entre la Europa medieval y la América moderna en Nueva España* (Mexico, 2011). Also noteworthy are his almost 150 articles published in specialised scholarly journals and around 200 book chapters.

He has supervised numerous statewide competitive projects and played a key role in creating and developing research structures in the social sciences at the Universitat de Lleida. His most noteworthy contribution in this field is the 2000 creation of the Consolidated Research Group on "Studies of Space, Power and Culture in the Middle Ages". A few years later, in 2009, he created the Institut de Recerca Identitats i Societat (Research Institute on Identities and Society, IRIS), one of the five research centres at the Universitat de Lleida, which gathers together around 100 interdisciplinary researchers in the humanities and social sciences. Finally, in 2013 he created the Master's in Mediaeval European Identity, the first official Master's programme on mediaeval studies offered totally online.

He was part of ANEP's evaluation committee on history and art from 2009 to 2013 and has been a member of AQU's evaluation committee for the humanities since 2009, and he has taught classes, seminars and lectures at numerous foreign universities, including Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (2003 and 2004), Poitiers (2007), Yale (2008), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (2009), Northumbria (2010), Dresden (2011) and Cambridge (2012). He was appointed a member of the scientific or publishing board of journals which are published by universities in Moscow, Paris-Sorbonne, Navarra, Corfu, Paraná, Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile), and in some research centres including CSIC, CNR (Italy) and CONICET (Argentina), among others.

His scholarly work has received ample recognition, including the 12th Pròsper de Bofarull Prize (1995), the 7th Josep Iglésies Fort Prize (1995), the 10th Joaquim Carerras Candi Prize (1998), the 1st Generalitat de Catalunya Distinction for promoting university research (2000) and the 3rd Premis Lleidatans: Research Group (2014). He was recently awarded a doctor *honoris causa* from the National University of Cuyo (Argentina, 2014).

Antoni RIERA