

JOSEFINA GOMEZ MENDOZA

Born in Madrid, I hold a PhD in History and Geography (UCM, 1974), and I was Professor of Geographic Regional Analysis in the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (since 1982 to 2014), of which I was President between 1984 and 1985. I am now Emeritus Professor. I belong to the Spanish Academy of History (2003) and Academy of Engineering (2006), and to several Spanish and foreign scientific and cultural associations. I belong to the Spanish *Consejo de Estado* since 2004, as an elective member, and I am honorific Forestry Engineer (1998), *honoris causa* PhD in the Universidad Carlos III (2005) and University of Lyon (Ecole Normale Supérieure, 2012) and member of the *Colegio Libre de Eméritos* (2010).

I contributed to the foundation of the Spanish Geographers Association (AGE, 1976), of which I was President between 1993 and 1997, and have been involved in many initiatives to strengthen and internationalize research among geographers, opening its boundaries and putting it in contact with other disciplines, as Humanities, Social Sciences, Architecture, Regional Planning and Engineering. I have been a member of several commissions that have dealt with research planning, as the Council for Assessment of ANEP (Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Prospectiva" (2005-2010).

My first book (1977), that was a result of my PhD whose director was Manuel de Terán, held with the viability of urban fringe agriculture, studied in the particular case of Madrid's North-East periphery, along the Henares Corridor. This line that I have maintained through the years has been widened into the fields of forestry, rural and urban landscape, and history of geographical thought. In the field of forestry, the most important publications are "*Ciencia y política de los montes españoles 1848-1936* (1992) and the works about Spanish forest regeneration in the XXth century. In landscape, I have been director of the work "*Los paisajes de Madrid. Naturaleza y medio rural*" (1999) and a member of the team that published the "*Atlas de los paisajes de España*" (Environment Ministry, 2003). In urban matters, I have dealt mostly with research on urban sustainability (2003), and engineering intervention in towns (2007). On geographical thought and methodology, my first and main work was "*El pensamiento geográfico. Estudio interpretativo y antología de textos (De Humboldt a las tendencias radicales—co-author, 1982, 1988 and 2002—)*, y have dealt with the history of geography teaching in Spain (1997), with Humboldt and its relation to the landscape, and with the ideas regarding nature preservation.

At the present time, I research on the presence of these themes (forestry, landscape, geography, humanities, and natural sciences) in the Spanish Council for Science (CSIC) between 1940 and 1966, during the Franco Regime. I have just started an initiative to create an Archive of the Geographical Memory, where we will scan the landscape slides collection of eminent Spanish geographers of the last 50 years, and compare with contemporary shoots of the same place, in order to evaluate the transformation of the landscapes. I am also part of the research group "*Paisaje y Territorio*" in the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and keep constant contact and research interchange with other foreign centres (UCLA; EHGO Paris; SET Pau; GEODE Toulouse;

Universidad de Cuyo y Tucumán, Argentina; Sheffield University, UK, Universities of Porto and Lisbon).

I have enjoyed very much, and still enjoy as the first day, being a geographer. As Torsten Hägerstrand said, we, geographers, are very lucky to deal with a discipline whose boundaries are so wide and open; this probably would have also happened by being a Historian or Anthropologist, but Geography has allowed me to keep in contact with natural sciences and technology, and to constantly travel and make field work. I will never forget my trips to Island, India, Ethiopia, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, and the Negev in Israel, Bolivia or the Argentinean North-West. Travelling to the Payne's Towers and the Glaciers Park, in Chile and Argentine, has been one of the magical moments of my life and in other contexts recent trips to hybrid peripheries of Shanghai and Beijing and tradition and modernity in Kyoto and Tokyo: I am sure that Geography has made me able to know how to look at these landscapes. I enjoy now sharing these past experiences with my two sons and four grandsons, at the same time that I am looking forward to future and exciting travel, new research, intellectual and friendship opportunities

www.josefinagomezmandoza.com