

Academic activity

Laura Díez Bueso received her PhD in Law from the University of Barcelona in 1997, with a doctoral thesis dedicated to the institutions of defence of rights and control of the administration, prepared in part during her academic stay at the University of Stockholm (Sweden). She is currently Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Barcelona, where she has held various academic positions, including Director of the Department of Political Science, Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law (2016-2018); Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Law (2015-2017); Director of the Master in Advanced Legal Studies (2014-2015), and Rector's Delegate for Regulatory Guidance (2011-2013).

Teaching activity

As a professor, Dr. Díez has been teaching since 1992 at all academic levels, from the former Undergraduate Degree, now a Bachelor's Degree, to Master's Degrees, mainly at the University of Barcelona but also at other Spanish and foreign universities. This teaching activity has focused primarily on the compulsory subjects of the Law Degree, which cover the study of the institutional system and sources of law, the territorial organization of power and constitutional rights and freedoms. She has also taught in other degrees such as Political Science and Administration; Audiovisual Communication; Business Administration and Management, and Public Administration and Management. All this activity has led to the recognition of five consecutive five-year teaching periods by the General State Administration and five consecutive positive evaluations by the University of Barcelona.

International academic experience

Within the framework of Dr. Díez's extensive international experience, her appointment as a human rights expert of the *Crisis Bureau's Deployment Mechanism-United Nations Development Programme, ExpRes Roster* stands out. She has been a member since 2016. This bureau includes an exclusive group of external experts selected by the United Nations to whom this organization turns preferentially in crisis situations, in order to offer quick and efficient support to its delegations. Equally noteworthy was her appointment as an expert in Democratic Governance by the *Democratization Department* and the *Law Enforcement Department* of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE-Serbia), within the framework of the program for the reconstruction of the Balkan area, which entailed her stay in Belgrade in 2018 to carry out this international assistance and legal advisory mission.

In addition, she has been selected in numerous international competitive calls, including her appointment as *International Expert in Human Rights* of the United Nations in calls in 2013 and 2015 (Turkmenistan); *short term expert* of the *Euralius Programme-Consolidation of the Justice System* of the European Commission in 2012 and 2013 (Albania); *short term expert* in the EU-funded *Twinning* project *Support to the Strengthening of the Serbian Ombudsman* (2009-2011), and international expert in the EU-funded *Twinning* project to assist in the implementation of the Ombudsman institution in Turkey (2013-2015).

Lines of research

The entire academic, teaching and international career described above has been focused on the following lines of research, in which the most relevant academic milestones are described as a sample of her work in each field. First, Dr. Díez has extensively analysed the organization of decentralized States both in Spain and in comparative law, which led her to be a member of the management team of the *Informe Comunidades Autónomas* (Report on Autonomous Communities) between 2013-2018, a yearbook of more than three decades that analyses the regulatory and public policy activity of the Autonomous Communities and the State.

Secondly, Dr. Díez has specialised in the study of freedom of expression and right to information, which has led her to be a founding member of the *LibEx Working Group*, created in 2018. This interdisciplinary group of university professors offers legal interpretation guidelines to operators facing offences related to acts of communication, as well as legal keys drawn mainly from the case law of the Spanish Supreme Court and Constitutional Court as well as the European Court of Human Rights.

Her third line of study has focused on university and research systems, both at the State level and with regard to comparative law. She has been the director of the research line Science and Innovation of the University Observatory - Institute of Public Law of the University of Barcelona, from 2010 until 2022.

The fourth axis of her research revolves around the constitutional institutions of guarantee of rights, a line that led her to be a member of the Group *Ombudsman System* of the *International Institute of Administrative Sciences*, headquartered in Brussels, between 1996 and 2000.

Finally, Dr. Díez is a specialist in the legal immigration regime. She has been a member of the Grupo de Estudios sobre Derechos de los Inmigrantes-GESDI (Migrants' Rights Study Group) from its foundation in 1999 until 2018 and of the Foro Asilo e

Inmigración (Asylum and Immigration Forum) at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales (Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies) between 2008 and 2010.

Research projects and scientific publications

All this research activity led Dr. Díez to participate in numerous competitive research projects convened under the Spanish National Research Plan, many of them directly connected with justice and constitutional jurisdiction. Among these projects, the most important are The impact of Constitutional Court case law on the Spanish legal system (1995-1998); The impact of Constitutional Court case law on fundamental rights (1998-2001); The transformations of the system of guarantees of fundamental rights in Spain and abroad (2002-2005); The impact of the European Constitutional Treaty on the Spanish Constitution (2005-2007), and The constitutional reform of the autonomous state in the perspective of 21st century federalism (2012-2014).

Dr. Díez has also been the main researcher in competitive projects at the State level, such as in the call of the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, State Program for R&D and Innovation, oriented to the Challenges of Society, and entitled 'The Spanish system of public research centres: mapping out and priorities' (2015-2018).

Her recent individual monographs include *The limits of artistic creation in the United States and Europe. Between expression and hate speech* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2017) and *Research systems in decentralised European countries. A comparative study of Spain, Germany, Austria and Belgium, and of Catalonia, Bavaria, Styria and the Belgian regions* (Institute on Autonomous Communities Studies, 2013). As director of collective monographs, the following stand out: *The reform of Article 49 of the Spanish Constitution*, from the series *Right to Disability* (Aranzadi, 2024); and *The Organisation of Science under Review: General State Administration, Catalonia, Madrid and the Basque Country* (Huygens Editorial, 2020).

Among the individual book chapters that she recently authored are *The limits of the constitutionality review of the decisions of the governing bodies of the Parliaments*. Various authors, *XIII Seminars on Parliamentary Law: Latest case law of the Constitutional Court on parliamentary matters* (Basque Parliament, 2024); and *Article 50 of the Spanish Constitution*. Montesinos, C. (coord.), Saiz, A. and Bustos, R. (dir). *Comments on the Spanish Constitution: In memory of Pablo Pérez Trempts* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2024). These previous publications, among others, should also be mentioned: *The use of the own-initiative procedures by the Ombudsman*. Hertogh, M., and Kirkham, R., *Research Handbook on the Ombudsman* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018); *Institutional guarantees of social rights*. Cascajo, J. L., Teruel, M., Domínguez, A., and Navarro, V. (coords.), *Social Rights and Guiding Principles* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2012), and *The Rights of Immigrants and their Guarantees*. Aja, E. and Arango, J. (ed.), *20 Years*

of Immigration in Spain. Legal and Sociological Perspectives (1998-2004) (CIDOB, 2006).

And, finally, recent articles in indexed scientific journals include 'Freedom of artistic creation in the case law of the Constitutional Court: an autonomous right with its own legal regime?'. *Teoría y Realidad Constitucional*, 2024; 'Survey on cooperative relations between the state and the Autonomous Communities'. *Teoría y Realidad Constitucional*, 2022; 'Hate speech on social networks: freedom of expression at a crossroads'. *Revista Catalana de Derecho Público*, 2020; 'Balance of fifteen years of constitutional case law on political parties'. *Teoría y Realidad Constitucional*, 2015; 'Reflections for a new constitutional regulation of the Ombudsman'. *Revista Vasca de Administración Pública*, 2013, and 'The university and research system in Spain: a territorial perspective'. *Istituzioni del Federalismo*, 2012.

Professional activity

In her professional activity (in special services) Dr. Díez has been Coordinator to the Government of Catalonia for the reform of the Statute of Catalonia (2002-2004); Deputy Ombudsman of Catalonia (2004-2010); Director of the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Relations with the Courts of the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Courts and Equality (2018-2020) and General Director of Constitutional Affairs and Legal Coordination of the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Courts and Democratic Memory (2020-2022) of Spain.

She was appointed Councillor of the Council of Statutory Guarantees by the Parliament of Catalonia in May 2022 and served as Vice-President of this institution from then until January 2023, when she resigned after being appointed Judge of the Constitutional Court.

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