

In Memoriam Gabriel Garcia Cantero

Gabriel Garcia Cantero, Professor of Civil Law at the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and member of the Advisory Board of our journal since its inception, passed away at the age of 97 on Christmas Eve 2024.

García Cantero was born in San Sebastián on July 25, 1927. In 1955 he entered the judicial career, being a First Instance judge between 1955 and 1968, at which time he began to devote himself entirely to the Chair of Civil Law at the University of Santiago de Compostela he had obtained the previous year. Soon thereafter he moved to San Sebastián, where he was Professor over a decade, until he settled permanently at the University of Zaragoza in 1981.

In Zaragoza García Cantero carried out an outstanding research and teaching activity, which he continued as Professor Emeritus and Extraordinary Collaborator after his retirement. His strong Catholic faith did not prevent him from becoming a pioneer in the study of the adaptation of Spanish Law to new family and personal relationships, and his intellectual production also extended to other fields of Civil Law, such as the Law of Obligations and Contracts, Agrarian Law and to Comparative Private Law. He was also one of the main contributors to updating the most important Handbook of Spanish Civil Law of the time, authored by of his teacher, José Castán Tobeñas, who was also president of the Supreme Court between 1945 and 1967.

García Cantero was a member of the International Association of Comparative Law and of the Association of European Privatists of the Academy of Pavia and was the president of the Spanish Association of Comparative Law, which he himself created and promoted in its first stage at the end of the 70's and which, together with his numerous disciples and other Spanish scholars, he helped to relaunch in 2024.

Miquel Martín-Casals,
Professor of Civil Law at the University of Girona

