

## In Memoriam: Roser Majoral



Roser Majoral Moliné, a long-standing member of *Fennia* Editorial Advisory Board and Professor with Análisis Geográfico Regional de la Universidad de Barcelona, passed away on 7 November 2005 in Barcelona, having to finally give up the battle with a deadly cancer. With the death of Roser, geography worldwide, and above all within the Catalan and Spanish community, lost a dominating scholar, an enthusiastic teacher and a great colleague.

Roser Majoral received the master's degree in geography and history at the University of Barcelona in 1971. On the same year, she obtained an assistant lectureship with the recently established Department of Geography. Her doctoral thesis from 1977 was methodologically and thematically a pioneering work that turned on the evolution of agricultural land use in Catalonia. She obtained a full tenure in 1984, and was appointed Professor in 1989.

Roser published numerous studies, articles and books related to rural and upland environments, and she also broadened her interest to agrarian geography, marginal lands and development issues. The latter ones formed an important sector of her teaching, which was strongly inspired by her close connections to the Indian subcontinent.

In addition to her outstanding research and innovative teaching activities, Roser dedicated much

of her time in management and administration. She was the Head of the Department of Physical Geography and Regional Geography between 1990 and 1994, and her role was invaluable in promoting and co-ordinating the Research Group of Territorial Analysis and Regional Development serving the Catalan Government from 1998 onwards. The contribution and work of Roser in numerous posts with the International Geographical Union were highly appreciated. From 1984 to 1988 she was a full member of the IGU Working Group on Development in Highlands and High-Latitude Zones. Between 1988 and 1992 she was a Full Member of the Commission dedicated to research on the Dynamics of Rural Systems, and 1992–96 she was the President of the Working Group on Development Issues in Marginal Regions, to mention a few.

Roser's enthusiasm and desire to learn more about our world never ceded. She continued to lead as normal life as possible and work despite the advancing illness, and she visited her Department frequently making plans of future endeavours. Her services for the Finnish Geographical Society and its journal *Fennia* are highly appreciated, and her commitment and strength will always remain in our memories.

*Jukka Käyhkö*