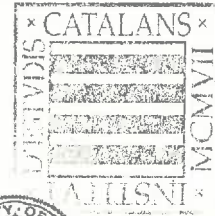


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November 28, 2018

To: Catalan Academy of Sciences
Re: Professor Ramon Flecha's Nomination for Catalan Award in Sociology

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing to you in support of Professor Ramon Flecha who has been nominated for the Catalan Award in Sociology. I have known Professor Flecha since 2008 when he introduced me to the impressive research institute he founded – CREA, the Institute for Overcoming Inequality at the University of Barcelona. Since then I have been in regular touch with him and his collaborators. They have visited me in Berkeley and I have visited them in Barcelona.

He has spear-headed one of the most impressive institutions in the world that manages to combine serious scholarship with policy advocacy and public engagement. Indeed, when traveling to different countries, I have often used CREA as a poster child for public sociology and encouraged the publication of a book that details their accomplishments, many of them conducted under his direction. I have watched him engage with and gain the public respect of leaders of the Roma community in Spain, and advance policies defending Roma Communities in the European Union. All of this was based on his own original intrepid ethnographic research which has refuted so many stereotypes of Roma people.

One of the most impressive features of his leadership in CREA is the way he has cultivated a community of young, enthusiastic researchers, and how he runs seminars that brings those same young researchers into conversation with some of the greatest minds in the social science, people like Jürgen Habermas, Manuel Castells, Ulrich Beck and many others. I have had the pleasure of working with some of those young scholars at Berkeley, and they are indeed a tribute to their mentor.

Professor Ramon Flecha is like no other, brilliant, perceptive, engaging – a man of enormous integrity and generosity, a significant player in the world scene of sociology. I recommend him to you with the greatest enthusiasm

Yours Sincerely

Michael Burawoy
Professor