

Prefaces

A Grateful Appreciation of Joan Martinez-Alier

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Joan (Juan) Martinez-Alier has been a pioneer in ecological economics. In addition to being one of the founding editors of the journal *Ecological Economics*, he contributed enormously to its theoretical development, as well as to uncovering and explaining its foundations in the history of economic thought. As if that were not enough, he served as president of the International Society for Ecological Economics, as professor and mentor of many European students in this new field at the University of Barcelona and as a social activist for ecological justice all over the world.

Back in the mid-1960s, I read something he had written that impressed me, and I wrote him about it. Later while attending a conference in Barcelona, I managed to meet him briefly. Our friendship grew at early conferences on ecological economics in Stockholm and Barcelona and in Costa Rica. On a trip to the USA, he visited me at Louisiana State University, and later, I managed to get him as a consultant at the World Bank for a month, although neither his efforts nor mine had much influence on that institution. I regret that the Atlantic Ocean prevented more frequent and closer contact between us. Nevertheless, collegial friendship with Joan has been a great personal benefit to me, as it has also been to many others. His many intellectual and moral contributions are a gift to all ecological economists, and to the world. *Felicidades y gracias, Joan!*