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Prof. Castells, born in Spain, was Professor of Sociology and of Planning at the University of California, Berkeley from 1979 to 2003.

He was a Professor of Sociology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris; and Professor and Director of the Institute of Sociology of New Technologies at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. He is a Fellow of the European Academy, of the British Academy, and of the Spanish Royal Academy of Economics. He is the author of 24 books including the trilogy "The Information Age: Economy, Culture, and Society", published in 22 languages.

Prof. Castells is currently Research Professor of Information Society and Director of the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Barcelona; Chair Professor of Communication Technology and Society at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Distinguished Visiting Professor of Technology and Society at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Internet Studies at Oxford University.