



University of the Basque Country

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Talk by Albert Fert

Madame la Ministre de l'Éducation, Madame le Recteur de l'Université du Pays Basque, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants du Pays Basque et de la ville de San-Sebastian-Donostia, très chers collègues et amis de l'Université du Pays Basque, de Centre de Recherche du Pays Basque, d'autres Universités et Centres de Recherche d'Espagne: Bonjour, Egun on, Buenos dias, Good morning.

I shift to English. I am very proud to become Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of the Basque Country, in this town of San Sebastian-Donostia I love, in the presence of some many colleagues and friends. I thanks the University of the Basque Country for giving me this privilege.

For all of us, scientists, academics, it is gratifying when we see that our work is understood and recognized, even if for all of us, having Prizes and Honoris Causa Awards is not our main objective and the supreme satisfaction,.... because science by itself, research by itself, is already so fascinating and gratifying. What is fascinating is opening new roads in the world of knowledge, transforming pure ideas into real experimental facts and, even more, into real applications, technological innovations, that are useful to many people. Moreover, we, researchers, we also like to share the beauty of science and the pleasure of our work with other people, scientists and non-scientists. And so, today, I want to explain a little more the pleasure of this exploration transforming, progressively, from surprise to surprise, pure abstractions into, finally, devices, computers, telephones that everybody uses. I will now describe some examples of such roads in the ten minutes of slides I will present.



10 minutes of slides

To conclude, of course, we see today the emergence of new tracks for research that will lead to innovations in 10 or 20 years. Skyrmions, these strange balls of spins that can be as small as a few nanometers, can be moved at 100 meters per second by electrical currents and are promising for several types of applications. And, in another promising direction, there are also tests of new nanocomponents that can mimic the properties of neurons and synapses in bio-inspired computers. Science is always going on, it always impresses me.

I thank you for your attention and I thank again the University of Basque Country for the Honoris Causa Doctorate.