

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



April, 2007
Bulletin #19

Welcome to the monthly electronic bulletin of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University. Its purpose is to provide, past and future researchers and interested friends, a sense of what is going on at the RCC, and to maintain the contact with our Alumni.

We invite your comments and suggestions at rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu (Elizabeth Kline)

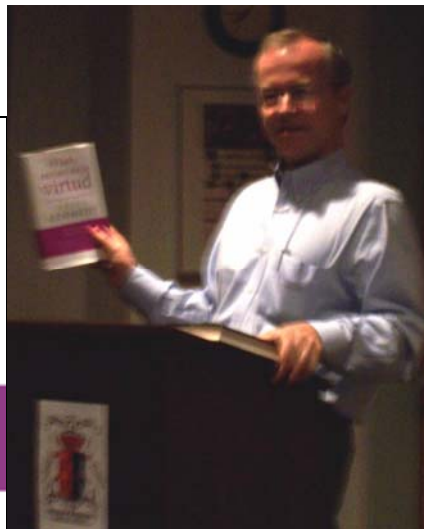
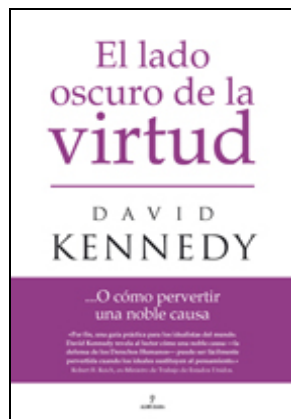
Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in April

RCC hosted two special events this month:

1. In the evening of April 24th, RCC Academic Council member and Professor at the Harvard Law School, **David Kennedy**, spoke about the Spanish translation of his book "*El lado oscuro de la virtud*" (Editorial Almuzara).



1. On April 26th at 7:30 PM, the Spanish writer **FELIPE CANTOS** (Madrid 1949) read from his new novel, **El diccionario mágico**, edited by CBH Books, Lawrence, MA, USA.



Upcoming Activities

RCC's film series concludes in May, following the academic year schedule. There will be a few more lectures in early June.

Lecture Series (7:30 PM, Free, in English)

May 3: Eva Botella, *Spanish Imperial Decline and British Imperial Rise. A colonial debate*

May 10: Ignacio de la Rasilla, *On the Democratic Principle in International Law and the US Neoconservative Interregnum*

May 17: Miguel Vázquez-Larruscain, *Natural Languages: Why Adults Can't Learn? A Formal Reply*

May 24: Diego Rodríguez, *Offshoring, Distance, and Productivity: Current Evidence & Discussion*

May 31: David del Villar, *Global Practice as a Driver for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange*

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Film Series (7:30 PM, Free, in Spanish with English Subtitles)

May 4: *No film. Special event instead [Madrid and Modernity Conference]*

May 11: *El espíritu de la colmena*, Víctor Erice (1973)

May 18: *El viaje a ninguna parte*, Fernando Ferán Gómez (1986)

May 25: *You're the One*, José Luis Garci (2000)

Special Event: May 4-5

Academic Council member and Harvard Prof. Brad Epps has organized a special two-day conference on "Madrid and Modernity". In order not to create a conflict, RCC will not offer a film on Friday, May 4th. For more information, go to www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu

Seminar on Programa para Directivos Españoles y Norteamericanos: May 13-16.
For more information go to <http://servicomspain-usa.com>. Contact: Marisa del Pozo
(Email: mapoli@ccinf.ucm.es).

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Demetrio Castro Alfin, History, U. Pública de Navarra
Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.
Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid
Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM
Raúl Fernández Fraile, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas
Pedro Chalmeta, History/Law, UCM
Antonio Martínez Marín, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia
Bjoern Arp, International Law, U. of Alcalá
André de Sousa, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona
Antonio Diéguez Lucena, Philosophy, U. of Málaga
Julia Mendoza, Classics, UCM
Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez, International Economics, UCM
Francisco Javier Pueyo, Sephardic Language and Literature, CSIC
Josep Puig, Philosophy, UCM
Miguel Vázquez-Larruscaín, Linguistics, UCM & Northeastern U.

New Researchers

Ignacio de la Rasilla Del Moral, Law and Politics, U. Pablo de Olavide Sevilla
Cecilia Castaño Collado, Social Sciences, UCM
Rafael Rodríguez, Democracy, Participating Politics, & Legal Theory, U. Pablo de Olavide
Pilar Saquero, Classics, UCM (one month)

Interview with Julia Mendoza



“In my three months in Cambridge, I felt the most Spanish at a *neighborhood potluck dinner party*. We do not have anything like this informal gathering of people, who each bring an item of food or wine, to share with each other. This was one of my most “American” experiences during my stay. Like many Spaniards, I was also surprised by the number of people who have American flags hanging outside of their private homes.”

This Professor of Indo-European Linguistics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, with a specialty in Sanskrit and comparative Slavic linguistics, was motivated to come to the United States because she needed a break from her involvement in the responsibilities of the academic direction of her faculty. For ten years, she served as Vice Dean for about 5,000 students and 400 faculty. “My research investigations were slowed because of the many complicated and pressured administrative tasks. So, I was looking for an opportunity to go abroad. I was also attracted to Harvard University as a first class university with excellent libraries, and I was encouraged to come here by some colleagues who had been before in Harvard’s Department of Classics.”

“In considering whether or not to come to the U.S, the support of the Real Colegio Complutense mattered to me. I knew that I would receive access, through RCC, to the Harvard libraries, but had no idea that I would also get an office with a computer and internet access. I also didn’t expect to get an opportunity to give a lecture at RCC, which is affiliated with Harvard University, or to get editing help by the staff person of the RCC. The support of the RCC’s director and his dedication have been important elements to our work here. So, my expectations were greatly exceeded.”

“I came with an open mind, but was surprised by several things. For example, I found the people to be more friendly and helpful than expected. Colleagues in the Harvard Department of Classics are friendly, provide facilities, and include me in their lectures, workshops, and seminars. Even people on the street are friendly to strangers. They make an effort to be helpful: they speak slowly and answer questions.”

“At RCC, I found my colleagues to be fantastic. I don’t know if this is the normal situation; the group is full of exceptional persons. They are intelligent, interesting, and nice people. I particularly like the Thursday evening lectures (when an RCC researcher gives a talk about her/his work) because we learn about other’s disciplines and topics,

exchange ideas, and get to practice our English. RCC provides the point of contact for all of us to meet each other. Otherwise, we would be dispersed throughout the departments and centers at Harvard University. I also value the informal times, during coffee breaks and lunch when some researchers talk about ideas and make plans to get together. This point of reference is very important.”

“Another surprise, for me, is the food. I had expected the food to be not so good – mostly fried chicken and hamburgers. However, the food in Boston and Cambridge is really very good. I expected the price of food and other items to be very expensive. This is not so, in part due to the favourable exchange of the Euro. Books and computer items are relatively inexpensive for us.”

During these three months, Julia Mendoza has been very professionally productive. “I’ve finished a task concerning our work on Slavic paganism, collecting and translating (into Spanish) some passages of a medieval Chronic. I finished the main work I proposed to the RCC, and I wrote a paper which has been accepted to be presented in an International Congress in May. I gave a lecture in March at RCC on *A Path to the Other World: A Comparison between Orphics and Brahmanical Texts*. Now, I’m working on another project. It is very easy to do research and writing here.”

Although mostly focused on professional work, Julia Mendoza has found time to do some tourism. “I am especially inclined to go to museums – and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts is fantastic!”

When she returns to Madrid in early May, she will bring with her a model of how to organize her university’s new library system. “I know that we can’t re-create the Widener Library, but it provides a model system which gives access to stacks of books and provides space for people to work in the library.” She also wants to “broaden and strengthen relationships and interchanges between the Greek Philology faculty and students and those from Indo-European Linguistics. I’ve seen this happen at Harvard and feel that we can benefit from these exchanges.”

RCC Alums

We encourage all RCC alums to email us information about their research projects, articles, books, and other related activities. We really encourage former RCC researchers to view their contact information on our website, under “Antiguos Colegiales”, (www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu) and email Elizabeth Kline of any desired changes (rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu). We also want to publicize any articles and/or books based on your research while at RCC. Email these references and they will appear in the next monthly bulletin.

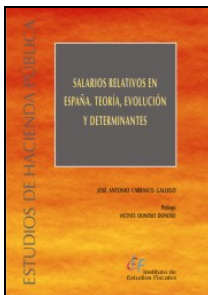
NEW: We would like to include an interview with a former RCC researcher in each monthly bulletin, in addition to an interview with a current fellow. Please email Elizabeth Kline if you are interested in participating in a brief written interview.

There is an official [Asociación de Colegiales del Real Colegio Complutense en Harvard](#):

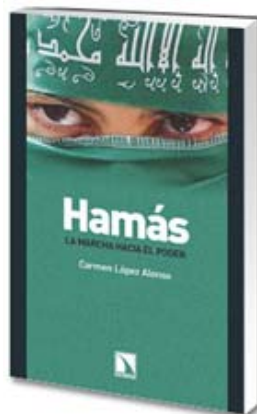
Presidente: Ignacio Rodríguez-Alfageme
Vicepres.: Octavio Ruiz-Manjón
Secretaria: María Pérez-Ugena
Tesorera: Elena Gallego
Vocales: José Luis de Castro, Emilio García Silvero, Tiscar Lara,
Esteban Moro, Judit Targarona

News from a former alum: Angel Alañón Pardo from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Facultad de CC. Económicas y Empresariales, Dpto. de Economía Aplicada I) became “Profesor contratado doctor” in July 2006. Two articles written partially while he was a visiting researcher at RCC have been published or accepted for publication. “Shadow Economy in three different Mediterranean countries: France, Spain and Greece. A MIMIC Approach”, was accepted by *Empirical Economics*, and published on line: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/b604v8821r720t10/?p=c252aecff56c430fa79e734c4e80df4e&pi=0>. “Análisis espacial de la creación de establecimientos manufactureros en los municipios andaluces”, was published in *Revista de Estudios Regionales*, 76, Mayo-Agosto 2006, pp.135-160.

José Antonio Carrasco Gallego’s book **SALARIOS RELATIVOS EN ESPAÑA. TEORIA, EVOLUCIÓN Y DETERMINANTES**. was recently published by the Instituto de Estudios Fiscales.



Carmen López Alonso’s book **Hamás: La marcha hacia el poder** was recently published (<http://www.librosdelacatarata.org/libro.php?libid=366>).



La Fundación Olivar de Castillejo offered its Madrid garden for a picnic gathering on April 14, 2007 of RCC alumni/ae, at the invitation of , Ignacio Rodríguez Alfageme. The photos below were taken at this event.



Alumni/ae Group Gathering in Spain

