

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

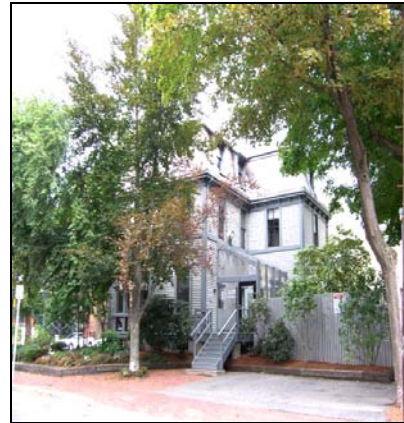


May, 2007
Bulletin #20

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 May

May begins the busy season for RCC. We hosted four special events this month:

May 2: Meeting in Cambridge, MA (USA) of the Academic Council, RCC's governing board.

Members shown below are: Margot Gill, José A. Gómez Ibáñez, David W. Kennedy, Brad Epps, Eleanor Shore, M.D, Carlos Andradas, Lucila González Pazos, Miguel Angel Alario, Alvaro Cuervo García, José Andrés Sobrino, and Angel Sáenz-Badillos. Not shown are: Derek Bok Interim President, Harvard University and Carlos Berzosa Rector, Universidad Complutense



May 4-5: Academic Council member and Harvard Prof. Brad Epps organized a special two-day conference on “Madrid and Modernity”.

For two full days, Harvard University hosted a very important event on a monographic topic: “Madrid y la Modernidad”. Three years ago, in April 2004, a very distinguished group of representatives from the world of Catalan culture met at Harvard to discuss the latest developments in Barcelona. This year, RCC’s Academic Council asked one of his members, Prof. Brad Epps, to organize a similar event on Madrid. This event was sponsored by the RCC, with assistance from Harvard’s Romance Languages and Literatures Department, the Spanish Embassy and the Spanish Consulate in Boston. Approximately 20 persons from the academic and cultural fields discussed different aspects of Madrid from the 19th century to the present. One of the most well known speakers, film director Alex de la Iglesia, presented one of his movies at Harvard Film Archives. Alaska, a popular singer, had a very interesting conversation with Harvard students; Rafael Moneo presented his new work on the Prado Museum. Rosa Montero spoke about her creative work. Sambricio and F. Teran offered their perspectives on urbanism. J. L. Abellán gave his view on the city. A large distinguished group of American and Spanish professors participated in the full and interesting program. The event was covered by Spanish television and press.

4 y 5 DE MAYO, 2007
 HARVARD UNIVERSITY
 FONG AUDITORIUM, BOYLSTON HALL
 9 a 18 horas

MADRID Y LA MODERNIDAD

RAFAEL MONEO CARLOS SAMBRICIO JOSÉ LUIS ABELLÁN MALCOLM COMPITELLO JOSÉ LUIS PARDO EDWARD BAKER UBALDO CUESTA CAMBRA ALICIA GÓMEZ SILVIA BERMÚDEZ	ROSA MONTERO FERNANDO DE TERÁN LOU CHARNON-DEUTSCH REBECA SANMARTÍN BASTIDA DANIEL FROST ÁNGEL GÓMEZ MORENO MICHAEL UGARTE SUSAN LARSON CRISTINA MOREIRAS MENOR
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7:00 Harvard Hall, Room 202 ALASKA ALASKA, UNA VIDA POP	7:00 Harvard Film Archive ALEX DE LA IGLESIA CONVERSACIÓN CON EL PÚBLICO
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For more information, consult our website: www.fas.harvard.edu/~ril

May 11: Group of Spanish teachers used RCC for their all-day meeting.

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



Sometimes, a group of RCC researchers go together for lunch. The photo below was taken by Elena González-Blanco at the Legal Seafoods Restaurant near the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard Square. It was the last opportunity for some of these researchers to eat American lobster before returning to Spain.



Upcoming Activities

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

June 14: Cecilia Castaño, "The Gender Digital Divide: differences in ITC's access, use & employment"

June 21: Bjorn Arp, "The International Protection of Foreign Direct Investment: some selected trends in jurisprudence"

June 28: Susana Galera, "The Right of Justice as a Fundamental Value in Europe Today".

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Film Series

RCC's Friday evening film series concluded at the end of May and will begin its fall semester at the end of September, 2007.

The J. B. Conant Advanced Research Group on the Public Interest: Media and Public Opinion in Comparative Perspective (USA-EU) arrives at RCC for a two month stay. The group's coordinator, Rafael Rodríguez Prieto, arrived in April to help organize the group's activities.

The Group will host some lectures and discussions, open to the public at no cost. This group has also organized its own film series focused on their topic of public interest & media. The public is invited to come to these free film showings (Go to: <http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu>) for a list of all of the group's events.

June 16, 17: Global Law in Comparative Perspective. Contact: RCC Academic Council member, Harvard Law Professor David Kennedy (Program linked can be found at www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu). This program is designed especially for Latin American and Spanish faculty. RCC is hosting a reception on June 15th.

June 25-29: Fourth Seminar on Government restructuring: privatization, regulation, and competition. Directors: Anton Comas, Germà Bel, UB.
Sponsor: Fundación Rafael del Pino. <http://www.ub.es/graap/Boston07.htm>

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

Antonio Martínez Marín, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

Bjoern Arp, International Law, U. of Alcalá

André de Sousa, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona

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.

Ignacio De la Rasilla Del Moral, Law and Politics, U. Pablo de Olavide Sevilla

Cecilia Castaño Collado, Social Sciences, UCM

Rafael Rodríguez Prieto, Democracy, Participating Politics, & Legal Theory, U. Pablo de Olavide

New Researchers

Susana Galera, Administrative Public Law, U. Rey Juan Carlos

Interview with Antonio Diéguez Lucena



The most important lesson that I learned during my three month's stay in Cambridge/Boston is "dare to think originally. We, in Spain, tend to be more conservative and tend to consider more the positions and opinions of others. Here, even students, dare to speak out. They are not afraid to be wrong. This experience encourages me to think in a more intellectually risky way, even at the price of being wrong."

Antonio Diéguez is a philosopher of science at the University of Málaga, in the Department of Philosophy. To further his career, gather materials for his research projects and teaching, and to meet colleagues in his field, he decided that it was time again to go abroad. The last such stay was for two months in 2003 at the University of Helsinki. This time, he responded to an email from a university administrator describing grants available from the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. The University of Málaga has an agreement with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, giving access and some priority to its faculty.

When he spoke with this staff person, he discovered that the deadline was literally a day later. With the administrator Thomas McFarlane's encouragement, he applied and later was notified that he received a scholarship. He immediately wrote to the chairman of Harvard University's Department of Philosophy and received a "very kind and supportive response", accepting him into the department. While giving a paper at a congress in northern Spain, soon afterwards, Antonio met Philip Kitcher, a well-known philosopher of science, about whose works was the congress. Philip Kitcher had been professor, some years ago, of Peter Godfrey-Smith, a young and prestigious Harvard U. philosopher. This turned out to be a very fortunate meeting.

Prof. Kitcher not only contacted Prof. Godfrey-Smith to alert him that Antonio was coming to Cambridge/Harvard, but also exchanged professional papers and ideas during his stay here. On the second day in Cambridge, Antonio visited Prof. Godfrey-Smith and got his permission to participate in his seminar about evolutionary theory. "This was an amazing and rich experience for me. One of the attendees, Daniel Dennett, is himself one of the most important philosophers in the world. The students were also high level."

Antonio Diéguez's initiatives throughout his stay rewarded him with intellectual discussions, friendly exchanges, and cultural enrichment. "The second or third day that I was at RCC, I read the Harvard University Gazette. I took out my agenda book and noted many lectures and concerts. I went to at least one free lecture a week. Twice, I heard opera performed at Harvard." He also took trips to Boston, north shore communities (including Salem, Rockport, Gloucester, and Marblehead), and New York City – learning more about American culture and life.

Many hours were spent at Harvard University's Widener Library. "It is a pleasure to be there, looking at all of the books in my specialty. I've never seen so many books in one place. I collected a lot of materials, which I can continue to use in my research when I return to Spain." He also used his time and the library materials to prepare three lectures that he gave during his stay: two at the Real Colegio Complutense and one at Salisbury University in Maryland. "I learned that I can give a lecture in English and still be funny!"

In addition, many hours were spent at RCC in his office, at the computer, doing research, writing, and thinking. "My time abroad felt less lonely than in previous trips. RCC is very friendly; I really enjoyed the company of other Spanish researchers and the comfortable place. There is always coffee and tea, opportunities for informal conversations, Thursday evening lectures, and Friday evening films."

In reflecting on his experiences, Antonio realized that "the American way-of-life is more similar to the one in Spain than I had imagined, with some differences. For one thing, religion plays a more significant role in U.S. politics. In another example, I was

surprised at the light lunches and heavier dinners in the States – and the amount of pre-cooked foods that Americans eat.”

Academically, he came to appreciate that “in Spain, we are not as bad as we think we are. For example, most of the fundamental books in my field are available in my university library.” However, he also recognized the “efficiency and kindness” of people at Harvard and at RCC. “They take their jobs seriously and try to help you solve problems.”

As he prepares to return to Spain soon, Antonio is pleased that his university is partnered with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and, through Real Colegio Complutense, to Harvard University. “I wonder now why more people from my university don’t take advantage of this opportunity.”

Interview with Sandra Val Cuerdo

This is the first of a series of interviews with former researchers who spent time at the Real Colegio Complutense. If you would be interested in being interviewed (via email), please contact Elizabeth Kline, RCC Program Coordinator (rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu).



1. What is your current title, department, university?

I am Assistant Professor at the University of San Jorge (Department of Communication) in Spain. Nowadays, my research is focused on Gender & Image and Postcolonialism

I am teaching Sociology of Cinema and Television.

2. When were you a researcher at RCC?

I came to Cambridge, MA in September 2002, just after finishing my PhD. I spent almost one year there. To tell you the truth, I am always thinking about coming back! Not only because I felt at home in RCC, but I also met a lot of people who are now very good friends.

From an academic point of view, the resources offered in Cambridge (libraries, conferences, students from all over the world..) are something difficult -or even impossible- to find back home.

2. What is your current situation?

I am back in Spain after a year and a half living and working in Delhi and Kabul -- very different places compared to Cambridge -- and I learned a lot living in Asia.

3. How did the RCC/Harvard/USA experience influence your life since you were here?

It is difficult for me not to work in an international environment, in a place where you want to do the things better and better. When I am abroad, I miss Spain (my family and friends) and when I am in Spain, I only want to go away, looking for "new intellectual adventures".

In RCC, I found a magic place. The director and the staff are also very special, a place like home, very creative, and intense. Yes, definitely, my life at Harvard was very intense. From a personal point of view, that is also where I met my husband!

I also found USA to be a complex and dual society, very dynamic and, at the same time, quite authoritarian. To be in Cambridge was a short dream, but the life of most of the people is very, very different. I do not want to live only in a dream because you can forget "other" realities.

4. Are there any examples of how your experience at RCC influenced what you did abroad and now in Spain?

Since the experience at RCC and probably since my Masters in Indian Studies, I always try to talk to my students about: cinema in Iran, in Korea, in Japan, in Mexico ... and not only about commercial cinema in Europe or America. I would like to make them travel through my classes and be interested in other worlds and not only in their community.

My visit and my experience in USA was surrounded by "courageous" students who wanted to learn, create, give their opinions I would like to bring the best part of Harvard here (libraries, facilities, a calm place where researchers are appreciate) and mix it with the best part in my country.

RCC Alumni

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.

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