

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**June, 2007**  
**Bulletin #21**

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](mailto:rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu) (Elizabeth Kline)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



### Major Activities in June

**Graduates:** The following RCC-funded students graduated this year from Harvard University: A. Bravo, J. Fernández-Alberto, A. Ribas, David del Villar, and N. Santamaria.

**The Advanced Research Group on the Public Interest: Media and Public Opinion in Comparative Perspective (USA-EU)** began their two month stay. They are hosting some lectures and discussions as well as a film series. All are open to the public at no cost (<http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu>)



**Research Group joined by RCC Researcher Susana Galera**

The group's first public event was an open discussion on June 7<sup>th</sup> with local activists to learn more about their perspectives on the group's topic. A second similar discussion was held on June 13<sup>th</sup>.



**Discussion with Activists**

RCC concluded its **Lecture Series** with three this month:

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, *Right of Justice as a Fundamental Value in Europe Today*

Several seminars were held this month at or near RCC:

**June 16, 17: Global Law in Comparative Perspective.** This program was designed especially for Latin American and Spanish faculty. RCC hosted a reception on June 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Reception for Global Law Seminar**

**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>



**Restructuring Government Seminar Participants**

## **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 Marin**, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

**Bjorn Arp**, International Law, U. of Alcalá

**André de Sousa**, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona

**Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez**, International Economics, UCM

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

New Researchers

*Advanced Group Members:*

**María Pérez-Ugena**, Media, U. Rey Juan Carlos  
**Alvaro Pérez-Ugena**, Public Opinion, U. Rey Juan Carlos  
**José María Seco Martínez**, Philosophy of Law, U. Pablo de Olavide  
**Nolan Bowie**, Media, Harvard U. J.F. Kennedy School of Government  
**Alberto González Pascual**, Media Communications, UCM  
**José Joaquin Fernández Alles**, Constitutional Law, U. de Cadíz  
**José María Seco Martínez**, Philosophy of Law, U. Pablo de Olavide

*Others:*

**Agustí Segarra**, Applied Economy, Rouira i Virgili  
**Victoria Rivas López**, Financial Mathematics, UCM

## Interview with Alvaro Pérez-Ugena



Having spent my senior year of high school in the United States (Portland, Oregon), I wanted to return someday. So, I was pleased to receive an invitation to join a group of Spanish researchers focused on the topic of Media and Public Opinion. I'm a journalist, and I teach and do research at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.

I, and the group, applied to come to Real Colegio Complutense to take advantage of the resources of Harvard University and the people in our fields who work in the Cambridge/Boston area. Harvard is one of the best universities in the whole world.

Our group is doing a comparative study between Spain and the US. It is much easier to do this kind of research here in the US than from Europe. We have a rigorous schedule of activities which includes seminars, roundtable discussions, informal discussions with constituent groups such as activists and broadcasters, a film series, and meetings. In addition, we each spend time reading from the extensive collections in Widener Library. I also learn from daily conversations with people such as strangers in restaurants, participants at events, and professors from various universities. Some of us participated, as an international observer, in a door-to-door canvass for a presidential candidate in a Boston neighborhood. It was great to listen to people that way and hear their opinions.

My particular interest is in linking media access to two groups: (1) people with disabilities and (2) children. I began my research in Spain and am continuing to explore how people who are blind or deaf can gain access to the media. For example, I'm working on ideas of using subtitles with colors, signage at airports, and using sign language. I'm also exploring how to improve the enforcement of protections for children watching television shows. Spain's code is influenced by the US one and neither is adequate in protecting children.

This place is so relaxed; it encourages me to do quiet reading and thinking. There are no traffic jams; no intense pressures; and people are informal. Unlike in Spain, people do not wear suits. It seems that it is more important what people think than what they wear.

One surprise for me and some other Spaniards is how relaxed people are during lectures. They eat and drink – something that would not happen in Spain. Another pleasant surprise is how helpful the librarians are at the Widener Library. They seem motivated to help and are so friendly. This makes doing research more enjoyable and productive.

The group is organizing a process that will continue after we return to Spain. We hope to have created a network of people for future research project partnerships. We are meeting with people from Wellesley, MIT, Harvard, and other universities. We expect to meet with representatives of some organizations and associations too. We would like to organize an annual seminar.

While I am in Cambridge for the months of June and July, I am and will continue to learn more about the American culture. I enjoy walking around Boston and Cambridge, eating in traditional pubs, seeing the architecture, shopping, sight-seeing. Since New York City is so close, I will go there at some point.

If someone wants to contact me, my email address is: [alvaro.perezugena@urjc.es](mailto:alvaro.perezugena@urjc.es).

## Interview with RCC Alumna Almudena Hernando



### **1. What is your position at the university?**

I am Profesora Titular de Universidad. That means that I have a tenure position at the Department of Prehistory, Faculty of Geography and History, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

### **2. When were you a researcher at RCC? August 2003 and March-May 2004.**

**3. What attracted you to go to RCC/Harvard/Cambridge?** I needed to do bibliographical research for a very multidisciplinary topic: the appearance of the first writing systems, before the alphabetical one. I wanted to know the cultural context where they had appeared, the ways the people who used them interpreted the world, their relation with time and space. To do such research, I needed a good library, and Harvard has one of the best ones in the world. But you can also find good libraries in other top universities in the USA. So, the decision to go to Harvard had also to do with other advantages, related to the invaluable support that RCC gives to Spanish researchers. The fact that RCC gave me economic support, a place to work, a friendly transmission of information, help, and entertainment, all this within an academic and pluridisciplinary context, established the difference between going to Harvard or to any of the other universities.

The first time I went was for only one month, during August 2003. And then, the RCC demonstrated to me that besides those benefits, it could give me even more things: the director, Ángel Saénz Badillos knew how to create a serious, working climate at the RCC, at the same time as a humane, friendly, supportive dynamic among the researchers. And even more, he helped me find an accommodation, what is always a problem when going to an USA university. I lived in Elizabeth Kline's home, where I found the same friendly, generous and easy going climate as in the RCC. The obvious consequence of all this is that I went back again for three months the following spring (2004).

### **4. What did you experience while here?**

As you can deduce from my previous words, my experience could not have been better. I had free access to the unlimited resources of the Harvard libraries, where I spent so many hours of my time. I learned that nothing is written directly on the topic I was interested in, but I got much interesting information about subsidiary themes. In addition, Professor Ofer Bar-Yosef from the Department of Anthropology, my sponsor there, received me in a more generous and receptive way than I could have ever imagined; he made me feel comfortable and welcomed in the department. And the human dynamics at Elizabeth's home and the RCC were always easy going and compensated for the hard work I was doing all the time.

**5. How have you used your experience here in your professional life since then?**

In two ways: on the one hand, I got so much bibliographical materials about so many interesting points that I have been using them to prepare articles, contributions to congresses and for my doctorate course. On the other hand, the contact with Ofer Bar-Yosef has allowed me to encourage pre-graduate students to go to Harvard to look for information for their Ph.D's.

**6. Briefly describe your current research.**

My research is about the construction of identity in human beings. I think that identity is constructed in different ways depending on how we order phenomena of reality through Time and Space, and how we represent both parameters -using or not writing systems-. My main interest is the way oral societies -who don't use writing systems- construct their ideas of reality and identity (You shouldn't forget that I work in the Dept. of Prehistory). I carry out an ethnoarchaeological project with a group of hunter-gatherers, the Awá people, in the Amazonian jungle of Brazil.

Another aspect of my research is the study of the identity of women throughout History. As they have often not been allowed access to writing systems, I try to analyze the differences that gender identities could mean in these terms. In addition, I try to understand the clues of the differences of identity between men and women in Modernity, as a result of their different historic trajectories.

## **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](http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu)) and email Elizabeth Kline of any desired changes ([rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu](mailto: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