

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



August, 2007
Bulletin #23

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 August

Two seminars began at the end of July and finished in the beginning of August: one on Public Policy and the other one (co-sponsored with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin America) on Management Research in a Global and Changing Environment. Raquel Galindo, a former RCC researcher, organized both seminars. She is interviewed in this bulletin.



Seminar Group (Chile)



Jorge Segrelles, Course Director Julio Gomez Pomar, & RCC Director, Angel Saenz-Badillos



**Raquel Galindo with Jorge Segrelles from
Fundacion REPSOL, one of the seminar sponsors**

In mid August, RCC hosted the Third Summer Seminar on Sociological and Political Research (Director: Jesús de Miguel, UB; Coordinator: Emilio Castilla, MIT. Sponsor: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas.

The group went on a tour of the John F. Kennedy Library.



The Advanced Group of Researchers left at the end of July. Before departing for Spain, they hosted everyone at a barbeque.



RCC Barbeque Party

Major Activities in September

One seminar will be sponsored by RCC in September: September 17-19th on Public Health (Medical). Director: Albert Jovell. Coordinator: Bruce Kupelnick.

RCC's inaugural ceremonies for RCC researchers and students will be on Friday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. The fall Thursday evening lecture series and the Friday evening film series will begin on September 20.

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.

Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM

Antonio Martínez Marín, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

Bjorn Arp, International Law, U. of Alcalá

André de Sousa, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona

Josep Puig, Philosophy, UCM

Agustí Segarra, Applied Economy, U. Rovira i Virgili

Victoria Rivas López, Financial Mathematics, UCM

Raquel Galindo, Business, U. Autónoma de Madrid

Marta Montero Simo, Tax Law, ETEA, Córdoba

Rosa María Rodríguez Izquierdo, Education, U. Pablo de Olavide

Bernardo Perriñán, Roman Law, Pablo de Olavide

Mauricio Suarez, Philosophy, UCM

Maria Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Law, U. of Málaga

New Researchers

Matias Irigoyen, Law, UCM

Abel Arias Castaño, Law, U. of Oviedo

Interview with Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez



Diego Rodríguez & His Family

I first came to the Real Colegio Complutense as part of the first Advanced Research Group in 2005, led by Rafael Myro. At the end of the two months, I knew that I wanted to return to do more extensive research and attend conferences, courses, and seminars. My field is applied economics and Harvard University has some of the most well-known experts, particularly in international economics. So, I applied for a Spanish government grant which I received. I have been here since February and I will return to Spain at the end of July. To be able to come at Harvard I had to teach all of my classes in Madrid in the first term. It almost means using the whole term for classes, but it is the only way to have time to go abroad. I believe that it is important and useful to go out of Spain sometimes in order to get a perspective from the outside and to learn from people in other countries. In 2000, I went to England for five months.

Fortunately, my family was able to join me in Cambridge, MA after being alone for the first two months. It makes a difference to have the support of my family nearby. I learned from their experiences here too. My two young children went to a bi-lingual elementary public school called *Amigos* and my wife spent considerable time helping out – by going on field trips and to the libraries with the students and teachers, for example. This opened us more possibilities to know life in Cambridge. Our kids have made very good friends and they have enjoyed their time a lot.

I have terrific impressions from my six months' stay. I'm glad that I was able to be here during the academic year, so that I could attend Harvard classes and go to conferences and seminars at Harvard and at M.I.T. Of course, this is not possible during the summer months. Besides the content, I found very interesting the teaching methodologies and the attitude of students. For example, Tony Gómez Ibañez (Kennedy School of Government/Graduate School of Design professor and also a member of RCC's Academic Council) uses case studies and engages students to participate as part of his teaching. We never use case studies, but merely examples. I also attended the classes given by Pol Antras at MIT. His classes were wonderful, with an in-depth analysis of more interesting topics in International Economics. I have been very lucky to have him as my sponsor at Harvard.

In another example of the American practical approach to teaching, my son and the other children in his second grade class read some paragraphs from their research projects on animals in front of a group of parents. I was amazed and impressed that children at such a young age were involved in computer research and in public speaking. My son and daughter were also given homework assignments that were very practical. For example, each learned about measurements by measuring our television set and by getting down on the floor and measuring the length of our hallway. Their curiosity and imaginations were stimulated. My impression is that they enjoy more this type of class.

I also tried to take advantage of my stay by attending seminars and conferences out of my specialization field. For example, I attended several conferences at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government. They were very interesting. I was captivated when I noticed Harvard undergraduate students (ages 19-22) line up behind microphones during a question and answer session after lectures and asked very probing questions. This kind of experience would not happen in Spain. They are young and, yet, do not hesitate to speak in public and ask challenging questions.

My professional work was very productive. Unlike in Spain where I am teaching and doing many other activities, here there was time to catch up on current journal

articles in my field. I read a lot, especially about international economic theory. These papers are invaluable in my research on outsourcing. I finished two articles that I had in the refereeing process and I needed to include more theoretical support and more current data. Also, I began two new papers (dealing with margins and productivity) on which I will work in the next months.

When I return to Spain, I will try to incorporate some of the teaching methodology that I experienced here. I will, for example, encourage student participation in my undergraduate classes. This type of approach fits with the growing interest and support in Spain for adding some practical ways to augment our classical education. I will also bring with me my enjoyment of listening to National Public Radio. I like to listen to the radio back home in Spain and now, through iTunes, I can continue to listen to programs such as Tom Ashbrook's *On Point*.

Interview with Alumna Raquel Galindo



Raquel Galindo has a tenured position in business & accounting at Autónoma de Madrid. She first came to RCC and Harvard University for three months as a Visiting Scholar at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Afterwards, she was invited to become a Fellow at Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government where she concentrated her research on high-risk practices in corporate accounting. During this time, "I took courses at the Harvard Business School and was included in a special seminar for accounting and business professors from various universities. From this experience, I realized the value of creating a seminar at RCC for academic researchers.

In 2005, I co-coordinated the first research symposium for Spanish accountants. Last summer, I repeated this responsibility. This year, however, I helped organize three seminars: one on Public Policy at RCC and two in partnership with DRCLAS. After last summer, I saw the opportunity to respond to RCC's Academic Council members' desire for collaborations/partnerships with other centers at Harvard University.

Through personal contacts, I explored partnership opportunities with the University of Santiago, Chile and with the Universidad Baja California/CETYS in Mexico. Within less than a year, we were able to offer, through RCC and DRCLAS, two

seminars which took place this month. One was on a *Survey of Methods in Health Services Research* and the other was on *Management Research in a Global and Changing Environment*. In total, 78 academics came from Chile, Mexico, and Spain. They participated in lectures given primarily by Harvard Business School and Harvard School of Public Health..

My objective for these seminars was to introduce academics to the most current research, ideas, and practical implementation steps so that they can take their new knowledge back to their teaching and research in their own countries. I was excited and pleased that so many participants were willing and able to pay for some of the expenses because they wanted so badly to come here. It was important, especially for this first year of partnered seminars, that we were able to provide substantial funds for participants, speakers, and administrative costs. Each university paid for hotel, travel, and honoraria for the participants and the Santiago de Chile also paid for the speakers. RCC contributed a significant grant and DRCLAS provide some additional funds plus the seminar room on the Harvard campus.

Although it was a huge effort on my part, spending hours and hours since last January, I was rewarded by the opportunities for participants to come to Cambridge/Harvard University, to meet and exchange ideas and experiences with each other, and for RCC to establish – what hopefully will be a continuing – partnership with DRCLAS.

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