

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**September, 2007**  
**Bulletin #24**

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 September

RCC celebrates the two year anniversary of publishing its monthly bulletin. The busy spring/summer schedule continued in September with the arrival of new researchers and Harvard degree candidates (who receive partial scholarships from RCC). \

The 2007-2008 academic year inauguration ceremony was held on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a special occasion. Rosa Urbano, a full time Harvard University student from Spain (who was interviewed in RCC's March 2007 Bulletin) shared her thoughts about this event:

"Within the framework of the multiple inaugural ceremonies that are taking place in the Harvard Community, the Real Colegio Complutense also celebrated a warm reception to welcome researchers and students for the new academic year 2007-08. After a more official session of presentations and the traditional concert of Spanish classical music, we enjoyed a more relaxed time in the garden thanks to the nice weather of the last days of the summer, the good wine and cheese and the alive atmosphere of many different conversations about the promising expectations of each of us for the new year in Cambridge. It was a an exciting first day that reflected the interest of the RCC to offer a cultural space to share events with people of many different origins and disciplines, a meeting point for researchers and neighbors of Cambridge."



**Group Photo of RCC funded researchers and students.  
Harvard Dean Margot Gill is on the far left, second row and**

A new seminar on Public Health for medical professionals took place at RCC from September 17-19, 2008. The director was Albert Jovell (Barcelona) and the seminar coordinator was Bruce Kupelnick (USA).

In October, there will be two more seminars: Commercial Law (October 15, 16) and Seminar IV on Law & Economics (October 22-28, 2007).

## **Current Researchers**

### Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

**Antonio Martínez Marín**, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

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

**Marta Montero Simo**, Tax Law, ETEA, Córdoba

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

**Bernardo Perriñán**, Roman Law, Pablo de Olavide

**Matias Irigoyen**, Law, UCM

**Abel Arias Castaño**, Law, U. of Oviedo

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

### New Researchers

**Nuría Gallego Lletjós**, Prehistory, UCM

**Pablo Martín Aceña**, Economics, U. of Alcada

**María Carmen González Landa**, Spanish Philology, UCM

**Prisca Castanyer-Bonnin**, International Economy & Development, UCM

**Xulia González**, Industrial Economics, U. of Vigo  
**María José Gómez-Millán Herencia**, Labor Law, U. Pablo de Olavide  
**Ventura Salazar García**, Linguistics, U. of Jaén  
**Paula García Ramírez**, English Philology, U. of Jaén  
**Francisco Javier Zamora Rodríguez**, History, U. Pablo de Olavide

## Interview with Josep Puig Montada



“You need to get a foot in the door and then you can enlarge your experiences from there.” Josep Puig Montada, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, expressed these words of wisdom during an interview as he neared the end of his current six months’ stay at the Real Colegio Complutense.

J. Puig speaks from years of experience. He has lived in Egypt, Iraq, Germany, and the United States for extended time periods. He first came to the USA (Harvard University) in 1986, attracted by the opportunity to learn from Professor Muhsin S. Mahdi one of the major figures in Arabic Philosophy. Puig was at Harvard before the RCC was created and when “Harvard was a much smaller place and everything felt familiar.”

While here, Puig discovered many scholars in his field from Harvard, Boston College, Tufts, Brandeis and other universities. “If I had remained in Spain, I would never have known these people.” He has not only kept in touch with Professor W. Heinrichs, an authority in Arabic Philology, and his colleagues from the Near Eastern Languages department, but also with people from outside of Harvard.

Returning to Harvard in 2005, Puig was “very pleased to receive support from RCC”. As a researcher, “I found RCC to be a good way to receive funding, have a base with an office and helpful staff, and access to Harvard’s libraries.” Besides, the director of RCC is a renowned Hebraist, and I could benefit from his precious help in his field.

He began a new research project dealing with contemporary authors, while continuing his work on medieval philosophy. Bill Graham dean of the Harvard Divinity School (Islamic religion) became a very important colleague during this time.

“My work this year is a continuation and expansion of what I started in 2005. I’m now working on three subjects: (1) Medieval Arabic philosophy; (2) Maimonides and the Jewish Averroists; and (3) contemporary Arabic thought. I’ve been very busy. For example, I produced an entry to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on Avempace; wrote and delivered a paper at a seminar in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; wrote an article on the Philosophy Pioneers in Egypt and another article on Farah Antun (a novelist, playwright, journalist, and editor who was one of the first secular thinkers in the Arabic world); and gave a lecture at UCLA.”

Like many other RCC researchers, Puig enjoyed the luxury of having time to focus on his research. “No administrative meetings; no classes to teach; and few distractions. I have the time to learn. For example, I audited a course on Jewish Andalusian authors who mainly wrote in Arabic offered at Harvard by Raymond P. Scheindlin, Visiting Professor of Jewish History. I was one of only six students. I was very happy to be a student again. It was also interesting to see how others teach.”

Puig and his wife had the opportunity to travel to several places – including New York City, Chicago, Washington, DC, Newport, Rhode Island – for personal and professional purposes. “I went to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. The University of Chicago was first in doing archeological work in Iraq and the Oriental Institute has one of the best museums for Ancient Mesopotamia”. Since I have not been able to go back to Iraq, I appreciated seeing the antiquities in a museum.

“I have really enjoyed my time abroad. Of course people from other countries are different from each other, but they are also the same. I feel comfortable here in the States and also look forward to returning to Spain. In October, I will begin teaching courses in Arabic language, Islamic philosophy, and philosophical texts.”

## **Interview with Yanna Gutierrez Franco, Alumna**



**Taken at the Boston Community Boating, August 2005**

**1. What is your current title and university department.**

Profesora Doctora Yanna Gutierrez Franco, Department of Applied Economics IV, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

**2. When were you at RCC (months & year)?**

I was at RCC from August to December 2005. I was a Visiting Scholar at the European Law Research Center (Harvard Law School), working on a CO2 emissions trading. I was particularly interested in the US experience on emission trading permits for pollution control, especially in those features which could be implemented in the context of the new EU market for greenhouse gas emissions.

**3. How has your experience at RCC influenced your life since then?**

My experience at the RCC was very fruitful in professional terms. This was my first long lasting stay in the US and I learned a lot from a different teaching and researching methodology and philosophy. The students' attitude in their relationship with the professors is also very different. However, more surprising to me was the professors' attitude towards the students: They were very accessible; they made you feel that your research was useful and important. Top professors, the very elite in the world, seemed to have time for your requests and were available to respond to your questions and doubts, in person or by email.

A very important part of my good Harvard experience was due to the existence of the RCC. Angel Saenz-Badillos, the Director, was extremely helpful in facilitating my arrival; and once there, both he and Elizabeth Kline, the Program Coordinator, helped me with whatever I needed.

## **RCC Alumni**

J. Martin Ramírez, a recent RCC researcher and CICA Chairman and Spanish Representative of Pugwash Movement at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, is helping organize and speak at the "CICA-STR International Conference on Interdisciplinary Analyses of Aggression and Terrorism". RCC is providing financial support for this September 27-30, 2007 event.

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

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