

**Real Colegio Complutense
Cambridge, MA (USA)**



**December, 2007
Bulletin #27**

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



**Note: RCC Program Director, Elizabeth Kline, will be in Madrid & Barcelona.
Please come & encourage your colleagues & friends to join us:**

- **Wednesday, 9 January 2008 from 12-14:00 in Facultad de Matemáticas, Room 250 C. Plaza de Ciencias, 3 Ciudad Universitaria S/N 28040 MADRID**
- **Wednesday, January 16, 2008 from 12-14:00 in Casa Convalescència (located on the corner of St Quinti Street & Sant Antoni Maria Claret Street BARCELONA**

Major Activities in December



Winter has arrived in Cambridge, MA. The first snow came on December 3. The photo on the right shows a House Finch enjoying food in RCC's garden feeder.

Fortunately, inside RCC the offices are warm and cozy! There is always a pot of coffee and hot tea available for hard working researchers.

Carlos Robles, the Spanish Consul in Boston, is a frequent visitor to the Real Colegio Complutense and to Harvard University.



A major event in December was the two day seminar on Media, Democracy, & Public Interest, organized by the James B. Conant Group of Advanced Researchers at RCC. It was an activity sponsored by RCC JB Conant Group. The seminar analyzed the relationship among media, public interest and democracy from a critical point of view in

the light of the current reality (FCC's politics, First Amendment rights, media ownership, etc.). The conclusion was as follows: The concentration of media ownership in recent decades in the hands of a few corporations led to a narrowing of the range of voices and opinions being expressed in the mass media. It undermines democracy and has consequences on political, social and labor relationships. The JB Conant Group hosted scholars from Canada and USA -- Vincent Mosco (Queen's University, Canada), Rose Moss (Nieman Foundation & Harvard Law School), Pippa Norris (KSG, Harvard University, Dennis Mazzocco (Hofstra University), David G. Gil (The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University), Marvin Ammori (Free Press), Joseph Tovares (WGBH Boston), Jerry Villacres (El Planeta). Angel Saenz and Nolan Bowie (JB Conant Group). This event was organized by Rafael Rodriguez Prieto (JB Conant Group) with assistance from Elizabeth Kline(RCC Program Coordinator).



On a very snowy December 13th, RCC hosted a book reading by Rose Moss from her recent collection of short stories called In Court.

Upcoming Events

Lectures (All take place at RCC 26 Trowbridge Street Cambridge, at 7:30 PM and are in English. They are free and open to the public):

Lectures:

January 10: Remei Capdevila Werning, PhD candidate, U. Autònima de Barcelona, *Constructing Reconstruction: The Barcelona Pavilion and Nelson Goodman's Aesthetic Philosophy*

January 17: Dr. Anselmo Martínez Cañellas, U. de les Illes Balears. *Interpretation of the International Uniform Trade Conventions: Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on International Sale of Goods.*

January 24: To be announced

January 31. To be announced

Films:

January 4, 2008 *El Lápiz del Carpintero*, directed by Antón Reixa , 2003

January 11. *Héctor*, directed by Garcia Querejeta, 2004.

January 18. *Animales Heridos*, directed by Ventura Pons, 2006.

January 25. *María Querida*, directed by José Luis García Sanchez, 2004.

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Antonio Martínez Marín, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

Marta Montero Simo, Tax Law, ETEA, Córdoba

Matias Irigoyen Testa, Law, UCM

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

Prisca Castanyer-Bonnin, International Economy & Development, UCM

Xulia González, Industrial Economics, U. of Vigo

Jesús López Rodríguez, Economic Geography, U. of A. Coruña

Rebeca Barba Egido, Human Ecology & Pre-History, UCM

Rafael Rodríguez Prieto, Legal Theory & Political Philosophy, U. Pablo de Olavide de Seville

Anselmo Martínez Cañellas, Mercantile Law, U. de les Illes Balears

Interview with Rafael Rodriguez Prieto



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“Everyone should be citizens of New York City”. This provocative remark came from Rafael Rodriguez Prieto, Associate Professor in Public Law at Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Sevilla). He explained its meaning: “When you take a subway in New York City, you see manifestations of many cultures. As a human being, it is very educational to experience such diversity. The more that I travel, the more I realize that there are many truths – not just one way of looking at things. We have to fight against the idea that there is only one truth or one perspective.”

Rafa has traveled a lot in his professional life including three or four times to the Real Colegio Complutense here in Cambridge, MA. He has gone to New York City, Chicago, Arizona, San Francisco, and San Diego.

He is a believer that “When you travel and go to other countries, you explore your own possibilities. Something inside yourself changes. This is the best experience for scholars.”

He first came to RCC in 2003 when he wanted to expand the bibliography of his PhD thesis on participatory politics in London, England in the 1980s and Porto Alegre, Brazil in the 1990s. Afterwards, he decided to write a book and develop political theories and strategies combining practical experiences with theories. In 2005, his book was published based on work done on his doctoral thesis as well as at RCC. He had returned to RCC for two months in early 2003 and then again from September 2003 until February 2004.

“I came back to RCC and Harvard University because these places give me opportunities to interact with scholars from around the world. I can listen to a Nobel prizewinner one day and then a political activist the next day. It isn’t just Harvard University. It is the whole Cambridge/Boston community.”

“Most important, for me, is the people I meet. I’m impressed with the focus in the United States on both individuality and a sense of community. People work together here.

For example, I've observed and participated in the political process – seeing for myself how political candidates campaign and how volunteers organize campaigns. It is very impressive to see citizens of all different ages actively involved.”

While at RCC, Rafa has been extremely productive. He has written several papers, participated in Harvard courses, improved his English, researched at Brandeis University with Prof. David Gil, and started (with some other Spaniards and American scholars from Kennedy School of Government) the James B. Conant Research Group. This month, the group hosted a two-day seminar on “Media, Democracy, and Public Interest at RCC. The idea behind this group is to develop critical analyses of media in the current times. “We are planning future activities of this group so that it can become an on-going part of RCC.”

At the end of the interview, when Rafa was asked how he has changed from his experiences here in the States, he replied, “That is a good question. Every trip changes a person. In my case, I learned that I need to be more specific, to give more examples, and not just talk in abstract terms. Americans are direct in their words – in their lectures and papers. I like that quality. Another thing that I've learned during my current stay at RCC is how people organize and act on their beliefs. They seem to follow the saying “Just do it!” I'm impressed with how a sense of community is created when people work together. A third lesson for me from Americans is how they question, criticize, debate people's assumptions, judgments, and ideas. They challenge each other. Even students challenge professors. I like this kind of explorations.”

Alumna Interview with Nuria Gallego Lletjos



“I will tell all of my graduate student colleagues at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid about the Real Colegio Complutense and encourage them to go to RCC and Harvard University. My experience there this fall was wonderful and professionally very helpful.” Nuria Gallego Lletjos, a PhD candidate in the Department of Pre-History at UCM in Madrid, was pleasantly surprised and pleased with her recent three months’ stay.

Nuria was considering going either to Berkeley, CA or Cambridge, MA to do library research to study hunter-gatherers in the Mesolithic Era (12,000 – 5,000 Before the Present). But she heard about RCC and Harvard University’s extensive library resources from her PhD advisor, Almudena Hernando, who was herself twice a researcher at RCC. At first, Nuria thought RCC was only for professors who were more advanced than she in their careers. “I was just beginning my PhD research and didn’t think that RCC would accept me. Fortunately, my advisor/supervisor wrote to the RCC director who then responded with encouragement. He offered me office space at RCC. The Ministry of Education approved of my three month stay in Cambridge, MA as part of my four year grant for my doctoral work.”

Nuria’s primary focus was on gaining access to the Harvard University libraries – the Widener and the Tozzer (Anthropology library which includes books and articles on archeology). Unlike in Spain where archeology is included in History, here in the States the field is directly linked to anthropology. “So, I’m seeing my topic from a different perspective.” What also made a significant difference in her investigative research was direct access to the library stacks. “Unlike in Spain, where I have to request a specific book, here at Harvard I can go look on the shelves and discover many books that I didn’t know about. This made my work faster and more productive.” In addition, Nuria found – as do many of the Spanish researchers interviewed in previous Bulletins – that the library staff are “extremely helpful” and “friendly.”

“I returned to Spain with a bibliography and many, many written materials that I wouldn’t have found elsewhere. I was able to find materials about hunter-gatherers from all over the world and in many different time periods. This type of information will help me understand how these people behave now and how they might have behaved many thousands of years ago. As well as other European researchers, I believe that the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were much more culturally and socially complex than many people have assumed and that they became farmers themselves. This viewpoint challenges the common belief that hunter-gatherers were/are primitive peoples and that agriculture was introduced by other people coming to Europe from the Near East.”

Unlike many of the researchers interviewed in previous RCC Bulletins, Nuria’s sources of information were almost entirely from written documents. There were no Harvard courses relevant to her research field to audit. Her Harvard sponsor, Ofer Bar-Yosef, studies the Paleolithic Era in the Near East – which is related to her work. He lent her some useful books, but most of her research was done on her own in the libraries.

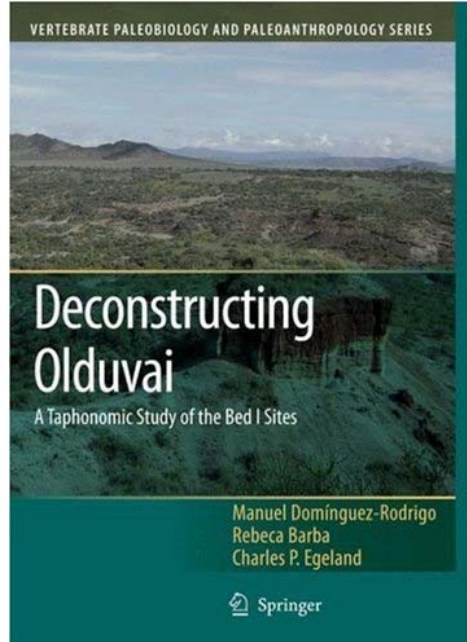
An unexpected support person was a woman who happened to come to RCC from Nuria’s own Pre-History Department. Although Rebeca Barba Egido has a different focus, they share similar fields of interest. They also happened to live in the same house during Nuria’s stay in Cambridge. As a result, “we (plus a Chinese archeologist) met once a week for coffee to exchange ideas and share information. I’m so happy to have met Rebeca here because I could talk with her about many things. We will stay in touch with each other back in Spain.”

At the end of the three months, Nuria felt that “I broadened my experiences, expanded my thinking, and got a better understanding of America and Americans. “I now know a corner of America. I know that things work well there. You need something; you can get it. Also, people were friendlier than I expected.”

The time spent at RCC was equally rewarding. “I met people from many different fields of study. For example, I had never spoken with a lawyer before. There, I met some lawyers and found out what they do and how they think. Someone often comes up with an activity, such as going out for lunch or visiting a tourist place like Salem or Walden Pond, and anyone who wants can join the group. I felt that I was able both to work hard and to spend one day a week going to Boston and other places with other Spaniards.”

I wished that I had had more time to meet more Americans.

Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo, co-editor of the Journal of Taphonomy, from the Department of Prehistory at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, recently had an article published in the Ministry of Science and Technology web. He co-authored a book (based on research begun at RCC) with current RCC researcher Rebeca Barba and Charles Engeland, “Deconstructing Olduvai: A Taphonomic Study of the Bed I Sites”.



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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