

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**January, 2008
Bulletin #28**

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 January

After a holiday break, some of the researchers returned from Spain to RCC. As usual, the coldest winter months have the fewest visiting researchers. Still, several new people arrived.

RCC's Program Coordinator Elizabeth Kline spent a very productive and pleasant nine days in Spain. She met with almost 50 people who are former RCC researchers or faculty and graduate students who might want to come here. She gave two informational presentations: one at the UCM, introduced by Vice Rector Carlos Andradas, and the other one in the Hospital Sant Pau in Barcelona, hosted by the Fundacion Josep Laparte.

The major objective was to provide information about RCC's benefits and opportunities so as to encourage more people to take advantage of the special partnership between UCM and Harvard University. In addition, the various meetings and social events were occasions for alumni/ae to meet each other.

"I want to thank everyone who helped organize events and activities, introduce me to the Spanish life, explain cultural traditions, and host me in their homes for their generosity, kindness, and support. Many people told me that they appreciated hearing first-hand about RCC and are excited about either returning or coming for the first time. I feel that this visit was a huge success". (Elizabeth Kline's comments upon returning to RCC).



Vice Rector Carlos Andradas Elizabeth Kline



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:

Feb 7: *Le Corbusier and the Architectural Revolution of the Modernit.* Ivan Shumkov, PhD Candidate in Architecture, Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

February 14: *Psychopathological Consequences of Childhood Traum.* Marta Ramírez Gaité, MPH Candidate 2008, Harvard School of Public Health.

Feb 21: *Leadership and Ethics in Foreign Policy. The Case of Fidel Castro vs. Robert McNamara.*: Cristian Lucas-Mas, MPA Candidate, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

February 28: *Regional Wage Disparities in Europe: What is the role for market access?*
Jesús López Rodríguez, U. da Coruña.

Films:

February 1: *El habitante incierto*, directed by Guillem Morales (2004).

February 8: *Intacto*, directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo (2001)

February 15: *Poniente*, directed by Chus Gutiérrez (2002)

February 22: *Juana la loca*, directed by Vicente Aranda (2001)

February 29: *El viaje de Carol*, directed by Imanol Uribe (2002)

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Antonio Martínez Marín, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia

Matías Irigoyen, Law, UCM

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

Prisca Castanyer-Bonin, 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

New Researchers

Pedro Díaz Peralta, Law & Medicine, UCM.

Gemma Geis, Administrative Law, U. de Girona.

Eugenio Fedriani Martel, Mathematics, U. Pablo de Olavide

Interview with Rebeca Barba Eguido



“It is very exciting to be part of a team of researchers challenging the current view about the behavior of the earliest human beings. Since I was 22, I have participated in a field called “Zooarchaeology & Taphonomy”, which is the study of animals and fauna in archaeological sites created millions of years ago. “Taphonomy” is a way to reconstruct the processes involved in the formation and modification of these archeological sites”.

Rebeca Barba Egido is a Researcher in the Department of Pre-History at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She received her PhD at UCM in 2006 under the direction of the project team leader and UCM Professor, Manuel Dominguez. The sites they are working in are located in the Olduvai Gorge in the Rift Valley of Tanzania, Africa. According to geological materials, the sites are approximately 1.8 million years old.

An American team has been working in this area for over 20 years. Their theory is that these “hominids” were scavengers. After studying a specific site in this region called “FLK Zinj” (from the cranial specimen found there by Mary Leakey in 1959 and called “*Zinjanthropus boisei*”), Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo and Rebeca Barba came up with an alternative theory: “By analyzing the faunal remains of this site, we believe that hominids were targeting meat in the exploitation of animals, ruling out the idea that they were passive scavengers.”

How did current RCC researcher, Rebeca Barba find herself in the middle of such an exciting project? While studying at UCM, she began doing lab and field work with Professor Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo. They spent two months in 2004 and three months in 2005 analyzing materials from the Tanzanian sites which were and still are stored in Nairobi. To their surprise, they concluded that the high frequency of cut marks and the low percentages of teeth marks on the animal bones indicated that the hominids were consciously processing and consuming animal meat before the carnivores get access to the small resources left by them. “We believe that these hominids were hunters rather than scavengers.”

The Spanish team published their discovery in the U.S. *Journal of Human Evolution*. “We realized that our research was real news. So, we wrote a book that was recently published: Deconstructing Olduvai: A Taphonomic Study of the Bed I Sites. “You can imagine how people in the field are reacting to our findings and conclusions!”

Currently, Rebeca is at RCC on an 11-month post-doctoral research scholarship to complete an atlas about herbivores in Africa. She is taking advantage of the incredible collections in Harvard's Natural History Museum – which include actual specimens as well as fossils. This research augments research work she did in London, Paris, and in Africa. Although her Harvard sponsor, Richard Meadow (Director of the Zooarcheology laboratory) works in a different period and in the Near East, he has been “supportive and helpful. He came to RCC's recent Open House; I was so pleased to see him there.”

Like many Spanish researchers, Rebeca is also impressed with Harvard University's libraries. “In Spain, we don't have these huge resources. We also cannot look at books on the shelves the way I can at the Peabody Museum libraries. Students studying at Harvard have access to books that I am now just reading. Also, I can take out books for as long as I need to use them.”

Spending months abroad is not a new experience for Rebeca. She has always been an independent person, willing and able to go to other countries by herself. “It is not so difficult for me to be alone in another country. Of course, this time it is easier because RCC provides a place to meet other Spaniards, an office, and educational and cultural activities. Information passes quickly from person to person. Within a few days, I already knew where to buy a phone card; where to eat a good lunch; how to use the library system; and where to look for items in Harvard Square and downtown Boston.”

Being an experienced traveler, Rebeca spent a week-end in New York City taking the Chinatown bus (direct and only \$15 each way) and walking and walking all around many neighborhoods. “For me, it was a nice feeling to be in the city and to discover so many things – to go to a concert, see paintings in museums, and get a sense of how Americans live in this huge city. I am eager to return at another time.”

Alumna Interview with Marisa del Pozo Lite



Marisa del Pozo Lite

1. Your university affiliation (title, department, field of study).

Professor at Complutense University
Facultad de Ciencias de la Información
Madrid, Spain

Field of Study & PhD. Organizational Communication

2. Your RCC experience: number of times, years, affiliation with RCC (researcher, seminar coordinator, etc.)

I was a researcher for four summers: July- September: 1999; 2003; 2004; and 2005

I am the director of the Program: "Building Competitive Advantage in the Global Market: Spain & USA" since its beginning in: 2003 until the present.

I was responsible for designing and developing the Program for American & Spanish Executives that is held annually at RCC & the Harvard Faculty Club every May since 2003.

3. How have you been affected (professionally and personally) by your experiences at RCC, Harvard University?

Professionally, my research at RCC under the direction of Harvard Business School professors has helped me advance in my career, and provided me with valuable experience. Personally, the greatest reward is the cultural awareness that I have acquired which has allowed me to open my mind to other cultures different from my own.

4. Any message for Bulletin readers -- encouraging them to do what you do (create, organize, & administer seminar programs; connect with businesspeople; link across cultures/countries, etc.)

Creating & designing an international program is extremely challenging, and more so than I originally thought when I was working on the first edition of "Building Competitive Advantage in the Global Market: Spain & USA". The good news is: If you like what you are doing, you find the energy, motivation and drive to form a team (a group of good advisors) in order to put together something that is both exciting and rewarding from a professional & personal perspective.

So if you have an idea that excites you, then get motivated and launch it!!!

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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