

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



**February, 2008
Bulletin #29**

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 February

On February 7, 2008, American actress Charlize Theron was given the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award. Following tradition, she participated in a parade which began a few blocks from RCC. Harvard University students dressed up like women and performed with Ms. Theron on stage in the evening.



Charlize Theron

On February 13, 2008 Spanish film director José Luis Guerín was interviewed at RCC in conjunction with Harvard Film Archive's Film Series showcasing this prominent artist. This is how the Archive's website describes the director:

“As one of Europe's most influential and innovative non-fiction filmmakers, José Luis Guerín (1960–) occupies a unique place in the vibrant and still largely underappreciated history of Catalan cinema. A brilliantly original director and a professor at Barcelona's prestigious Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Guerín has brought a new dynamism and experimental spirit into Catalan and Spanish cinema. Together with his colleague, the radical documentarian Joaquim Jordà, Guerín has transformed the Documentary Program at Pomeu Fabra into one of Europe's most important centers for experimental non-fiction work and inspired a new generation of young filmmakers, such as Mercedes Alvarez (El Cielo Gira).”



Prof. Brad Epps
RCC Board Member

José Luis Guerín

In February, RCC undertook an improvement project in the main room: wood replaced the older carpet. This is how the room now looks:



Upcoming Events

NOTE: The Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Kline, will be on vacation for two weeks in March, returning on March 17, 2008.

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:

March 6: *Measuring multidimensionality of poverty*. Eugenio M. Fedriani Martel, U. Pablo de Olavide

March 13: *A Theory of the Long Tail*. Andres Hervas-Drane, Ph.D. candidate in Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

March 20: *A Story about History: On the Role of Theory in Historical Writing*. Álvaro Santana-Acuña, Ph.D Candidate, Harvard University

March 27: *The Closed Society and its Friends: From Totalitarianism to Fundamentalism. An Approach from Conceptual History*, Juan Francisco Fuente.

Films:

March 7: *La suerte dormida*, directed by Ángeles González Sinde, (2003).

March 14: *El espinazo del diablo*, directed by Guillermo del Toro (2001).

March 21: *El cielo gira*, directed by Mercedes Álvarez (2004).

March 28: *A mi madre le gustan las mujeres*, directed by Inés París, Daniela Fejerman (2002).

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Matias Irigoyen, 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 Egado, 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

Gemma Geis, Administrative Law, U. de Girona.

Eugenio Fedriani Martel, Mathematics, U. Pablo de Olavide

New Researchers

Israel Muñoz Gallarte, Classical Philology, U. of Córdoba (for two months)

Natalia Vara, Spanish Literature, U. of the Basque Country (for two months)

Celia Martínez Escribano, Law, U. of Valladolid

Interview with Jesús López Rodríguez



“As a Spanish academic, I am so fortunate to have a wonderful boss (Andrés Faiña, full professor and chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Coruña) and very supportive colleagues. We help each other. For example, some of them agreed to teach my courses while I am here in the US for a year, even though they are not

compensated for this extra work. I feel so grateful for their support.” This kind of encouragement, according to Associate Professor Jesús López Rodríguez, is unusual in academia. This attitude allows him and his economic colleagues to “travel abroad, do important research, expand their knowledge with new ideas and experiences, and enhance their careers and their value to their students.”

Jesús López Rodríguez has taken advantage of his ability to do research in other countries. In 2005, he attended a seminar at the Real Colegio Complutense on Business Management directed by Alvaro Cuervo. At that time, he learned about the possibility of becoming a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University and having an office at RCC. Having spent a year during 2004 at the London School of Economics in the UK, “I was eager to come to another world famous university – Harvard. I wrote to Harvard Professor Pol Antras, a well-known expert in International Economics, and he responded by agreeing to be my sponsor. With the support of my PhD thesis advisor, I applied for, and received, a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Education. RCC’s Director Ángel Sáenz-Badillos offered me an office there.”

“I am so pleased with my experience so far. “It has been an amazing experience. I have attended graduate level lectures on international trade, social economics, and econometrics, taught by cutting-edge scholars. I’ve already gotten new ideas that are very useful in my research.” Jesús López Rodríguez’s research focuses on “new economic geography”, which is a brand new area within the field of spacial economics which aims to explain why and where economic activity agglomerates. For example, in the year 2000 more than 80% of the global GDP comes from what is called the “North” as compared to the “South” (i.e., countries located in the southern hemisphere).” So one my wonder if there are models that could explain this pattern?, “I am interested in carry out empirical work testing New Economic Geography based hypothesis”.

Jesús López Rodríguez is currently surveying the empirical research – how the New Economic Geography models fit to real data in the “real world”. “Models explain where and why economic activities take place. They are designed to understand situations, and not to predict the future.”

Like most of the Spanish researchers who come to RCC, Jesús López Rodríguez spends hours and hours working at RCC. He does take time, each day, to get exercise by going on long walks along the Charles River. “I’ve always been a walker and I am pleased to go almost every day on a wonderful pathway. This exercise allows me to work longer hours at the computer and in the libraries.”

So far, Jesús López Rodríguez has been working on a chapter for a book to be published by ICEX (Instituto de Comercio Exterior). Soon, he will present a paper at the Western Regional Science Association.

In summarizing his time here, he says, “I really feel comfortable in RCC, Cambridge, and Harvard and enjoy the diversity of this place. The different nationalities enrich my personal life. Coming from a small Spanish community where most people are similar, I am benefiting from a broad range of ideas and cultures.”

Interview with Alumna Elena Gallego



Inés Pérez Soba Ana Martínez Elena Gallego

This photo was taken by RCC's Program Coordinator when she visited Spain in January. All three are former RCC researchers, economists, colleagues at UCM, and friends.

1. What is your current title?

Profesora Contratada Doctora en el Departamento de Historia e Instituciones Económicas I, UCM.

2. What is your field of study?

I have two topics. The first is women economists (19th century) and secondly, their placement in labor markets.

3. When were you at RCC?

I was at RCC during the second semester of 2003.

4. How has your experience at RCC influenced your life?

My experience at RCC was completely positive, both in terms of my career as a researcher in economics and in my private life. Thanks to my stay at RCC, I was able to obtain access to a wealth of documentation about two classical economists - Jane Marcet and Harriet Martineau - who have since then been the subject of a long term research project. Speaking personally, I have the fondest memories of the cities of Boston and

Cambridge, and of the other researchers at the RCC. I have friends whom I met during my stay.

5. Any additional thoughts?

I strongly recommend that any researcher apply for a period of residence at RCC given the optimum conditions for study available there.

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