

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



**March, 2008  
Bulletin #30**

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 March**

The Program Coordinator spent two weeks on vacation in southern Ethiopia visiting tribal villages and seeing wildlife. “It was quite an experience!”



Mursi Tribe

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, a group from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and the Ministry of Education and Science came to RCC/Cambridge and were given a tour of Harvard's Widener Library by Juan Francisco Fuentes, one of RCC's current researchers and a Full Professor in Contemporary History at UCM.

## 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:

April 3: *The Product Life Cycle (PCL)*. **Ignacio Crespo**, Visiting Fellow at Harvard U.

April 10: *Off-Shoring in Spain: Foreign and Domestic Firms*. **Rafael Myro**, Professor of Applied Economy, UCM.

April 17: *Title Registration vs. Title Insurance*. **Celia Martínez Escribano**. Universidad de Valladolid and Visiting Fellow, RCC at Harvard University

April 24: **Rosa Urbano**, PhD Candidate, Harvard GSD.

### Films:

April 4: *La Buena estrella*. Directed by Ricardo Franco (1997)

April 11: *Tango no me dejes nunca*. Carlos Saura (1998).

April 18: *Flores de otro mundo*. Icíar Bollaín (1999).

April 25: *Martín*. Adolfo Aristarain (1997).

On April 11th, RCC expects the visit of Her Alteza the Infant Cristina and her husband.

## Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

**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

**Gemma Geis**, Administrative Law, U. de Girona.

**Eugenio Fedriani Martel**, Mathematics, U. Pablo de Olavide  
**Israel Muñoz Gallarte**, Classical Philology, U. of Córdoba  
**Natalia Vara**, Spanish Literature, U. of the Basque Country  
**Celía Martínez**, Law, U. of Valladolid

New Researchers

**Javier Martínez Rosado**, Comercial Law, UCM  
**Rafael Myro**, Applied Economic, UCM  
**Ainara Zubillaga**, Education, UCM (3 weeks)  
**Laura Mayoral**, Econometrics, Instituto de Analisis Economico (CSIC)  
**Susana Galera**, Administrative Law, Rey Juan Carlos  
**Juan Francisco Fuentes**, Contemporary History, UCM  
**Oscar Martínez Tapia**, Political Science, UCM

## Interview with Remei Capdevila



“I studied philosophy because I had always been interested in the meaning of things and the ways of understanding the world. However, I disliked the fact that philosophy is sometimes a self-referent discourse far from reality. For this reason, when I began my PhD, I decided to focus on architecture, because in buildings there is a confluence of history, art, and also everyday life. I chose specialize on the philosophy of architecture because I wanted a subject that is common to everyone and at the same time philosophically challenging.”

Remei Capdevila, a PhD candidate in Philosophy at the Autònoma University of Barcelona, is pursuing an interdisciplinary approach that combines philosophy and

architecture. “From the perspective of aesthetics, architecture has usually been relegated to a secondary position as compared to other arts such as painting, sculpture, or music. In my search of a philosophical theory that would help me to better understand what architecture means I discovered Nelson Goodman’s short essay “How Buildings Mean.” From that point, I decided to take his philosophy as basis for my research. Goodman (1906-1998) was an analytical philosopher and professor at Harvard University. His book, Languages of Art, is one of the most important texts on analytical aesthetics.”

“Fortunately for me, one of the worlds experts in Goodman’s philosophy, and his long time collaborator, is Catherine Elgin, a Professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. I first met her at a conference in Europe, then I started working with her while I was getting a Masters in “History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. I decided to pursue this Masters because I came to realize that most architects do not know much about philosophy and most philosophers do not know much about architecture and design.”

Thanks to the Real Colegio Complutense Fellowship, Remei Capdevila is spending an academic year (September 2007 – June 2008) at Harvard University finishing her PhD dissertation on Nelson Goodman and architecture with the advice of Catherine Elgin, a wonderful mentor and teacher. “Everything is here: Catherine Elgin, the best libraries, Goodman’s archives... Moreover, Goodman was raised nearby in the city of Somerville. He led a very interesting life in which art was continuously present: While a student at Harvard University, he ran an art gallery in Boston. His wife was a painter and he directed performances that combined painting, dancing, and music.”

Most of her time is spent, as with many Spanish researchers, reading and writing. Still, she has managed to travel to some other places in the U.S. including New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Toronto and Niagara Falls in Canada. She also sings in the MIT Women’s Chorale, a group of women affiliated with MIT or Harvard. “I’ve met a lot of nice people there, especially Americans. What I’ve found is that you can do whatever you used to do in Spain – play sports, sing, dance – while you are here in Cambridge.”

“Boston & Cambridge are full of Spaniards and I would encourage everybody to benefit from this sort of experience. It is hard when you first come to a new place, but I’ve found that I could easily connect to people in the same situation as you as well as Spaniards through email lists such as “Iberia” and through the Real Colegio Complutense. I try to go to the weekly lectures of RCC researchers on Thursday evenings, even though I have to leave right afterwards to join my singing group.”

After defending her PhD (sometime before Christmas 2008), Remei Capdevila will apply for a post doc position. In the future, she hopes to teach in an architecture school and share her interdisciplinary approach with students and colleagues.

## **Interview with Alumni, Daniel Parejo**

1. Your title and university department. [The law firm of Garrigues.](#)
2. When were you at RCC? [July-December 2005](#)

3. How has your life since then be affected by that experience -- professionally and personally?  
Yes. Such a great experience at one of the best universities and the RCC offered me the best possibility to conduct a unique research on corporate law which has been very useful in my work as a lawyer. The life at the RCC and Harvard offers the opportunity to profit from vast resources. Life in Cambridge is intellectually stimulating and challenging.

4. Any advice for faculty and graduate students considering coming to RCC/Harvard? **Be ambitious in terms of gaining knowledge and experiences.**

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