

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**May, 2008**  
**Bulletin #32**

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)

Ángel Saenz-Badillos, Director



### Major Activities in May

May is the beginning of RCC's busy season. Our first seminar of the 2008 year took place from May 3-7. According to the seminar director, Marisa del Pozo: "This Program was organized by Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard. It is an annual Executive Development Program for Spanish and American executives and entrepreneurs currently working in both markets who want to explore opportunities in either country. It is specifically designed to help an elite group of business executives understand the privileges of doing business in either market, building and sustaining competitive advantages and managing the innovation process in the global market. Our **6th Edition : BUILDING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE GLOBAL MARKET: USA & SPAIN (May 4-7, 2008)** enjoyed the energized atmosphere of the Harvard Business School's Centennial Celebration which took place on the Harvard Business School campus at the same time:



**Executive Seminar Participants in front of Baker Library, Harvard U.**

At the end of April, Program Coordinator Elizabeth Kline and RCC Researcher Rebeca Barba spent a few days learning about the Amish people. “We were so impressed with the Amish who manage to preserve their traditions and culture while living next to non-Amish people (called “English”). They seemed to us to be very curious, tolerant, fun-loving, hard-working, family-oriented, helpful to others in need, and comfortable with their religion. They respect different viewpoints and do not try to impose their way of life on others. With the help of the owners of our 1766 Bed & Breakfast (Osceola Mills Inn), we were fortunate to eat with two different Amish families. The food was plentiful, homemade, and very good.”



## Upcoming Events

### Lectures

June 5: **Miguel Sánchez Morón**, U. de Alcalá, *Managing Public Administration: Top Civil Service Systems in Europe and USA*

June 12: **Javier Martínez Rosado**, UCM, *Distribution of Motor Fuel: Legal Disputes*

**The RCC Film Series will begin again in late September.**

**June 23-27: Fifth Seminar on Government restructuring: privatization, regulation and competition.** Directed by **Anton Costas** and **Germà Bel**. Sponsor: Fundación Rafael del Pino.

**June 30-July 4: Health Leadership at the Balearic Islands.** Directed by **Albert Jovell**.

## Current Researchers

### Continuing Researchers (with offices at RCC)

**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

**Celia Martínez**, Law, U. of Valladolid

**Javier Martínez Rosado**, Commercial Law, UCM

**Rafael Myro**, Applied Economic, UCM

**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  
**Miguel Sánchez Morón**, Administrative Law, U. of Alcala  
**Judit Targarona Borrás**, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.

New Researcher

**María José Varela Salinas**, Translation Studies, U. de Málaga

## **Interview with Susana Galera Rodrigo**



“If citizens cannot challenge their government’s decisions, then they do not live in a full democracy”. The topic of access to justice by citizens is the subject of Susana Galera Rodrigo’s current administrative law research. She is a profesora titular at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos and this is her second stay at the Real Colegio Complutense.

“I returned because this is a very convenient and stimulating place to work. There are wonderful resources such as the Harvard libraries, and the environment at Harvard and RCC is a real stimulant for me. I am surrounded by other researchers who, like me, have the time to focus on our research without the usual interferences you have day-to-day in Spain.”

In addition, “This time I already know the place and many things. The first time I spent some time learning how things work and even learning about the culture and “codes” in America. For example, here “Come tomorrow” means a specific date for a meeting; in other countries, can mean anytime in the future.

Susana Galera is continuing her research, begun here last year, on guarantees established by the rule of law which allow citizens to question decisions that affect the public. She focuses mainly on European laws, but is also studying the U.S. legal system.

Much of her work is done in the libraries. “They are very well organized; the staff is very, very helpful; and the books and articles are completely up-to-the present. If I do not find a book on the shelves, then I can make a request. Within a few weeks, I receive the document that I need.”

Besides spending time in the libraries, Susana also participated in a course taught by Harvard Law Professor Tushnet on “Constitutional Comparative Law”. “I was very impressed with the easy way the professor dealt with constitutions from many countries around the world -- from Canada to South Africa to India.”

Her research and her enjoyment are enhanced by the other researchers at RCC. “All of us are focused on our work. We talk about our research and our classes. Every Thursday evening, someone gives a presentation at RCC on his/her work.” In addition to work, Susana says that “I have profited from many other opportunities that take place in Cambridge and Boston. For example, I really enjoy seeing films from Africa, Indonesia, Korea, and other countries at the Harvard Film Archives. In another example, I visited artists’ studios in Somerville (a nearby city), or joined local people for walks, hiking and other open air activities.”

In reflecting on her experiences in Cambridge, Susana said that they will have a “clear influence in both my teaching and research. I will finish two long articles in English which I began here last year. I am also working on a book. In addition, I found a syllabus on a course that I also teach and I will adopt some of the ideas such as more contemporary information and more dynamic teaching methods.”

“I encourage Spanish faculty and post-graduate students to come to RCC/Harvard even with the added effort of having to deal with a foreign language and a different culture. It is really worth the effort.”

## **Interview with Alumni, BjörnArp**



I am Björn Arp, Assistant Lecturer in Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Alcalá in Madrid. I defended my PhD Thesis on the protection of national minorities at my University in December 2006.

After this defence, I went to Harvard for a post-doctoral research project. I stayed there between January and August 2007, for a total of eight months.

From a professional point of view, the stay at Harvard and the RCC helped me in various ways. It enabled me to get deeper into my research about a topic which was closely related to my PhD Thesis but which I could not analyse sufficiently in that thesis: the protection of national minorities through bilateral treaties. The post-doctoral research at Harvard gave me the opportunity to have enough time and to count on the enormous bibliographic and documentary resources at Lewis, Langdell and Widener Libraries to elaborate on the study just as I had wanted to do.

The outcome of this research is a book now being published by Martinus Nijhoff in The Hague, and I am confident that the results will be satisfactory. For the elaboration of this work, I also received much support from the staff of the RCC, for which I want to express here again my deepest gratitude.

Furthermore, I also found time to start researching on another topic which is completely different from that of my PhD Thesis, i.e. the international protection of foreign direct investment. For this, it was great to be able to attend many interesting lectures and conferences at Harvard Law School. I heard some very useful insights from experts who have longstanding experience in this field. It was great! Also the first outcomes of my research on this topic will soon be published in Spain and abroad.

The great infrastructure at the RCC enabled me not only to have a proper space to pursue most of my research and writing, but also to have a calm working space where I could attend many requests which were coming in from my university in Spain, so that I could keep track of several projects in which I am involved, including the *LL.M. Program on Human Rights Protection*. I managed that program from my desk at RCC almost as if I were personally present in my university!

From a personal point of view the experience at Harvard was wonderful. I made many new friends and I experienced the American way of life, which reminded me very much of my own (German) origins. While enjoying Boston and its surroundings, I did all I could to improve my English.

My advice for Spanish scholars coming to Harvard is to strictly apply the scientific curiosity to all you do in Cambridge: apply it when you are researching, asking about everything and testing your results with other sources (This will be easy in a place so well equipped like Harvard!). Also in your personal life here be open and curious about everything! The better you get to know it, the more (positively) surprised you will be about this country and its people!

There is an official **Asociación de Colegiales del Real Colegio Complutense en Harvard:**

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