

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**June, 2008**  
**Bulletin #33**

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 June



The Advanced Group of Researchers arrived at RCC. The Advanced Group of Researchers was created to work on the Project “Regulating Liabilities in the International Trade of Food and GMOs. Towards an International Food Safety System?” during 2008. UCM Full Professor Arturo Anadón Navarro is the Project’s coordinator.

This multidisciplinary group is composed of nine researchers who belong to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Universidad de Granada, and Universidad Islas Baleares. These members come from different fields such as Toxicology, Pharmacology, Administrative and European Union Law, Environmental Law and Environmental Sciences. Each member of the Group is an expert in a particular discipline and has a professional background in different fields (such as negotiations on international treaties and conventions, design and implementation of public policies, legal practice, risk assessment, risk analysis, harmonization groups under Codex Alimentarius, etc.). These qualities enable the Group to carry out the objective of connecting scientific theories and the real world within the framework of an applied research activity.

The Advanced Group of Researchers sponsored several lectures in June:

June 12: Douglas Kysar, Professor of Law, Yale University. *It might have been: Risk, Precaution, and Opportunity Costs.*

June 17: Peter B. Hutt, Professor of Food Law, Harvard Law School. *Food Law and Scientific Uncertainty in the U.S.: Antibiotics Resistance and Hormones”.*

June 18: Arturo Anadón, UCM. *The Role of Science in Food Safety Policy: Risk assessment and risk management.*

June 26: María Rosa Martínez-Larrañaga, *Toxicological Factors affecting Food Safety.*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students who graduated from Harvard this month and who had received scholarships from RCC:

Silvia Bonamusa, Graduate School of Education  
Cristian Lucas-Mas, Kennedy School of Government  
Ignacio Martín Maruri, Kennedy School of Government  
Marta Ramírez Gaite, School of Public Health  
Oriana Ramírez Rubio, School of Public Health  
Ivan Shumkov, Graduate School of Design  
Rosa Urbano Gutiérrez, Graduate School of Design

## **Upcoming Events: Seminars**

**June 29-July 3.**

Health Leadership at the Balearic Islands. Directed by Albert Jovell.

**July 7-11**

Summer Course on Business Management Research. Director: Alvaro Cuervo.  
Coordinator: Mauro Guillén. Sponsor: Fundación Rafael del Pino

**July 21-25**

Summer Course on Recent Developments in Financial Economics. Directors: Emilio Ontiveros and Luis Viceira

**July 28- August 1**

2nd International Seminar on Education & Research: Negotiations and Public Policy in the 21st Century, Directors: Julio González and Raquel Galindo

## **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

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

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

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

**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 Alcalá

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

New Researchers

**Laura Mier Pérez**, Spanish Literature, U. de Salamanca

**Santiago Muñoz**, Administrative Law, UCM

**María Angeles Montoro Sánchez**, Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship, UCM

Group of Advanced Researchers

**Arturo Anadón Navarro**, Toxicology (Food Safety), UCM

**María Rosa Martínez-Larrañaga**, Toxicology (Risk Analysis), UCM

**Lucía Roda**, Biosafety, UCM

**Anselmo Martínez Cañellas**, Commercial Law, U. Islas Baleares

**Fernando González Botija**, Food Safety Law, UCM

**Pedro Díaz Peralta**, Health Law, UCM

**Alejandro Lago Candeira**, Environmental Law, U. Rey Juan Carlos

**Enrique Alonso García**, Food Law, Consejo de Estado

**Miguel Ángel Recuerda Girela**, Administrative Law, U. of Granada

**Fernando Presa González**, Philology, UCM

## Interview with Rafael Myro



“Our research found that Spanish companies are reacting well to foreign competition.” This conclusion by Professor of Applied Economics Rafael Myro and his colleagues is somewhat of a surprise given some people’s beliefs that Spain was not successfully competing in the global marketplace.

Prof. Myro is a Visiting Scholar at the Real Colegio Complutense for the second time. “My first visit was very useful in helping make connections with people who could advance my thinking and research. This time, I am focusing on two topics: off-shoring of manufacturing firms and Information Technology impact and diffusion in Spain. Concerning the first issue, the good news is that off-shoring is not so important for the Spanish economy. Until 2007, we have been creating many more jobs than required to offset the ones lost by off-shoring, even within the manufacturing sectors. And in the field of IT, we are in the middle of change, just like other countries. What we found is that Spain has sufficient information technology to compete and that competition from other foreign companies is not so much of a problem. So, now my interest is shifting towards better understanding Spanish national companies which are expanding their enterprises in other countries.”

According to Prof. Myro’s research and the findings of other economists, the Spanish economy has “been growing fast in the last ten years and creating many jobs. Because of the influx of approximately four and a half million immigrants, our economy has become more complex. We need, therefore, to avoid simple conclusions about the path of productivity growth or the external deficit.”

While at RCC and Harvard University, Prof. Myro conducted a lot of research as well as attended two courses (one on macro-economics and the other on development and poverty). The latter course is directly related to a course that he will teach at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid next year. He is also eager to incorporate some of what he learned at Harvard in his courses at UCM. “Here the teacher interacts more with students and the content is more applied economics – focusing more on dealing with real-world problems. Economic theories are very innovative too.”

This is a general feature of the US, where universities seem to be more involved in governmental policies and national or international programs than are people in Spanish universities. For example, when I was at New York University I perceived that economic professors were interested in development in Africa. I have also seen this focus here at Harvard even in a deeper way; they go into explanations about African underdevelopment.

Another interesting aspect is that here in the States professors are concerned as well about problems of education in Europe. One reason for this interest may be because many of the economic professors come from Europe and, naturally, are interested in the European educational and economic systems. American universities are very open and flexible about attracting foreign teachers. They also offer high pay and good benefits. Many PhD students stay in the USA after graduating from Harvard and other universities. They retain their interests in their home countries and bring this perspective into their teaching and research projects.

“When I return to Spain, I will change some of the methods of my teaching and certainly add new materials that I found at Harvard. It is very refreshing to come here. I don’t understand why more Spanish academics don’t come here. What a privilege and what an opportunity we have.”

Recently, Prof. Myro was appointed to RCC’s Academic Council (governing board).

## **Interview with Alumna, Estrella Trincado**



I’m a *Contratado-Doctor* in the Department of *Historia e Instituciones Económicas, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales* in the UCM. I stayed in Cambridge for nearly five months, at two different periods: one from May 2004 to July 2004; and the other from February 2005 to May 2005. So, I actually lived through the cold white winter in Cambridge and its splendid, flowery spring. Two different worlds!

I was sponsored by *Walter S. Barker Professor of Economics* Stephen Marglin, Faculty in the Department of Economics at Harvard University. Although the Department of Economics at Harvard is famous for its mathematical models, for its econometrics and

for its orthodox economics, I had the opportunity to get in touch with Prof. Marglin, one of the most well-known heterodox economists. In the Department of Economics, John Kenneth Galbraith was also then an Emeritus Professor. Actually, the person who recommended me to Marglin was another heterodox economist, Paul Zarembka, whom I met in a conference in Dublin and who knew me from my American publication. I have to express my appreciation to him.

Really, Harvard welcomes all different ideas from its scholars. For my research, I needed this openness, as the project I proposed to my sponsor consisted of a History of Heterodox Economic Thought for graduate and undergraduate students. It dealt with the history of critics of economics as a science, methodological critics, and critics of the current economy. During my stay in Cambridge, I did research at Widener Library where I found considerable literature on the topic. I devoted my first two months at Harvard to setting out principles of a heterodox handbook and developing its chapters.

Dealing with this larger topic, two specific issues on heterodox literature stimulated my continuing interest. The first was criticism of the alleged utilitarian basis of action in economics and justice, actually the core subject of my PhD dissertation. The second was a study of the anarchist political and economic systems. This study led me to produce a paper about the influence of Spanish Anarchists during the Spanish Civil War on North-American Anarchism. I browsed American authors' anarchist literature: first authors from the beginning of the century like Thoreau and Tucker and then authors during the Spanish Civil War and later people like Emma Goldman and Ernest Hemingway. I devoted part of my second stay to these topics.

I'm pretty sure that my Harvard stay has had an important influence on achieving some of my academic goals. With regard to the topic of justice and utilitarianism, in 2005 I was awarded the History of Economic Analysis Award by the *European Society for the History of Economic Thought*. Thanks to Professor Marglin, I got in touch with different staff from a variety of departments at Harvard (and elsewhere). Professor John Womack, from the Department of History, provided me with a great deal of information on South American anarchism.

During my stay at Harvard, I also tried to profit from all the opportunities the city gave me – and they were really a lot. I attended doctoral courses that gave me more feedback for my research. In the summer, there were no official courses and I attended a Summer Course which lasted seven weeks, and lectures and films Harvard provided. During my stay in the USA, I also gave two lectures on topics of my research, one for the *Eastern Economic Association* in New York, and the others were RCC Fellows' lectures.

Apart from the articles I published thanks to my stay at Harvard, I'd like to stress the great personal experience I got from my stay in Cambridge. Not only because Harvard is a really lively university, but also because I found great people at the RCC whom I will never forget. RCC makes things easier; you really feel like being taken in by a vast family. My stay at Elizabeth Kline's house was also definitive. Elizabeth, current Program Coordinator at RCC, welcomes each of her guests as new friends, and you really feel as one of them. She also welcomed my husband when he came for some days to the US. Without Elizabeth, it would have been much more difficult to get in touch with the American people and maybe impossible to learn their customs. I'll never forget the church meetings, the dancing classes, and the pot-lucks we attended together. I'll never

forget, either, the meetings *pro* John Kerry, her chocolate cakes, and her twin sister, Kathy.

Advice for Spanish academics thinking about coming to RCC: Do not worry about your English, the long distance, or the Harvard faculty. If you have the opportunity, go to RCC. People from the Complutense University are really lucky to have so many facilities provided by RCC and by such a great American university. Another hint: when you are in Cambridge, try to find American people for an interchange (intercambio). If you are there in the summer, you can even go to interchange programs at Harvard's Summer Courses, practically for free. You will find that American people are really willing to learn Spanish, and that, at least in Cambridge, they are as welcoming as the RCC itself.

And, have a good time!

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