

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**July, 2008**  
**Bulletin #34**

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 July



Josu Jon Imaz, former President of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), a Spanish political party, came to the Real Colegio in June. It was a nice talk with some fellows about Spanish politics, globalization and American life.

The summer on Health Leadership in the Balearic Islands, directed by Albert Jovell, brought a group of doctors to RCC from June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each day, staff interviewed speakers and sent the video to Mallorca.



**Seminar Participants**



**Seminar Staff from Laporte Foundation**

**The Summer Course on Business Management Research**, directed by Alvaro Cuervo and coordinated by Mauro Guillén, was held at RCC from July 7-11. M. Angeles Montoro helped organize the seminar. Approximately 50 participants heard from the following speakers: Felix Oberholzer-Gee, Robert Gibbons, Rebecca Henderson, Juan Alcácer, Ramon Casadesús-Masanell, Thomas Eisenmann, Mary Tripsas, Emilio Castilla, Jordan Siegel, and Mauro Guillen.



**Business Management Research Participants**

From July 21-23, the **Summer Course on Recent Developments in Financial Economics**, directed by Emilio Ontiveros and Luis Viceira, took place at RCC. The group heard lectures from Markus Brunnermeier, John Campbell, Andrew Lo, Atif Mian, Erik Stafford, Jeremy Stein, and Luis Viceira.

## **Upcoming Events**

**August 6-13:** For the fourth time, the annual Summer Seminar on Sociological and Political Research will be held from August 6 to 13, 2008 at the Real Colegio Complutense, 26 Trowbridge Street, Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States: [www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu](http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu). The main goal is to expose faculty and researchers, mainly from Spain, to top quality academic social researchers who work in the Boston area (primarily from Harvard University and MIT). The small seminar format of thirty participants allows for an intense academic exchange in English, with the maximum personal and academic benefits.

The seminar is directed by Jesús M. de Miguel (Professor at the University of Barcelona, Spain) and Emilio J. Castilla (from MIT). The seminar is sponsored by the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, of the Presidency of the Spanish Government, and the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University.

## **Current Researchers**

### Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

**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 (beginning of July)

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

**Oscar Martínez Tapia**, Political Science, UCM

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

**Santiago Muñoz**, Administrative Law, UCM

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

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

**Madayo Kahle**, Classics, UCM

### Group of Advanced Researchers

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

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

**Lucia Roda**, Biosafety, UCM (beginning of July)

**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

### New Researchers

**Florentino Rodao**, Contemporary History, UCM.

**Raquel Galindo**, Business, U. of Autónoma de Madrid

**Jesús de Miguel**, Sociology, U. of Barcelona

**María Luisa Gómez Jiménez**, Housing & Law, U. of Málaga

**Elena Urquía Grande**, Accounting Management, UCM

**Carmen López Alonso**, Religion & Politics, UCM

**Carmen López Escribano**, Education, UCM

**Nieves Nazaret Pérez García**, Energy Law & Policy, Alcala de Henares

## Interview with Celia Martínez



“Students do not learn by heart, but by understanding”, commented Celia Martínez Civil Law Lecturer from the Universidad de Valladolid. She came to this conclusion about Harvard University law students after participating in two law courses at the Harvard Law School: one on property rights and the other on real estate transactions. Unlike in Spain, where teachers lecture to students, she found that teachers here ask students many questions about documents which they have to read the night before. As a result, she says, “Students work full-time and not only before they take exams. Every day they have to prepare for class.”

This is one example of how Celia Martínez expects to use her experience after she returns to Spain. “Because I was able to see for myself how to teach differently from the traditional lecture approach, I can help introduce the educational reforms now being implemented in Spain.”

She cited a second example of how her experiences and research at Harvard University will help her and others carry out the new reforms: Civil law research has to include comparative law and can no longer focus mainly on the Spanish legal system. While at Harvard, she gained knowledge and experience about United States law as well as gave a lecture in English and has written an article in English. Now she is preparing a paper for an international congress in comparative law.

Celia’s stay at RCC is not her first time here. “I came to RCC two years ago to spend the summer doing research in the Harvard libraries, after a researcher from Madrid suggested this possibility to me. I wanted to return for a longer time period, and I discovered that my university (Universidad de Valladolid) had a signed agreement with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. When the Secretario General of my university knew of my interest in coming to Harvard University, he looked for the way to provide support. Although the Rector was not the same person who originally signed the

agreement, when informed about it, he and the Vicerrectora de Investigacion were very encouraging. It was not a question of attitude, but of providing information to them.”

“It took a while to arrange my teaching responsibilities since my department expects everyone to teach both semesters. However, now that I have been able to come to RCC, it will be easier for my colleagues. In fact, a professor from my university is coming to RCC/Harvard next fall at my suggestion.”

Living in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language (English), and learning new teaching techniques and content are very challenging for anyone. “In Cambridge, MA, there is a big difference that helps Spanish people feel immediately more comfortable: a very welcoming attitude by Harvard faculty and staff and by the Real Colegio Complutense.

“Cambridge and Boston are cities that seem similar to European ones. You can travel by subway or bus; there are bookstores and restaurants within a short walking distance of RCC and Harvard Yard; and you can speak Spanish at RCC. Besides, I have found people to be so nice and helpful. For example, when my family came to visit, an American girl offered to drive me to airport to meet them and took us to the hotel. These kind acts are just two examples of what I found from many people.”

“I’m so glad that I came again. When you go abroad, you open your mind. Also, I am now not scared to go to other parts of the United States.”

## **Interview with Alumni José Carrasco Gallego**



### **1. Your current title, department, and university**

I am Profesor Colaborador Doctor in the Departamento Economía Aplicada I at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, in Madrid.

### **2. When were you at RCC?**

I was at RCC from July 2005 to February 2006.

### **3. How has your life changed from your experiences at RCC,/Harvard/Cambridge?**

My life has changed in different aspects. First, personally, I got to know some very nice people. Some of them were fellows at the RCC at the same time; others were faculty; and the rest were my roommates and friends in Cambridge. I learned a lot from them: new views about life and another way of thinking. I am still profiting by keeping in contact with them via email.

Second, professionally. I was in the Department of Economics at Harvard University as a Visiting Scholar working with Pol Antràs, a fantastic person. Due to that, I could participate in some very interesting courses and seminars in the Department and in the Kennedy School of Government. Thanks to those courses I have since written some papers applying what I learned there.

Third, culturally. I had never been in the US before going to the RCC. Thanks to my stay I now know this vast culture, and the way that the things work there, both positively and negatively. After those seven months, I think that there is a lot of stuff that we should learn from the US.

As a final remark, I must say that when I came back to Spain I found some colleagues in my Department were envious. Some colleagues were not very excited about the fact that I had been learning at Harvard. They were so explicit in their behavior that I had to change to another department, where I am now. After some time in my new Department, I am pleased with the change.

It was a very interesting experience which I would like to repeat some day. I absolutely recommend that others go to RCC/Cambridge/Harvard University.

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