

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



**August, 2008
Bulletin #35**

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)

Ángel Saenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in August

From August 6-13, 2008, RCC and CIS (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas) hosted the Fourth Summer Seminar on Sociological and Political Research. This seminar was directed by Jesús M. de Miguel (U. of Barcelona) and coordinated by Emilio J. Castilla (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Speakers were: Ruth V. Aguilera (U. of Illinois), Frank Dobbin (Harvard), Peter Hall (Harvard), Michèle Lamont (Harvard), Pippa Norris (Harvard), Peter Hall (Harvard), Mary C. Waters (Harvard), Peter V. Marsden (Harvard), Roberto Fernández (MIT), and Emilio Castilla (MIT).

II Simposio Internacional para docentes e investigadores en Gestión y Políticas Públicas Siglo XXI, co-directed by Julio González and Raquel Galindo took place at RCC from July 28-August 1, 2008.



On August 8th, RCC received a distinguished visitor from Spain: Sr. D. Diego López Garrido, Secretario de Estado para la Unión Europea. He spoke with participants from the Fourth Summer on Sociological and Political Research (directed by Jesús de Miguel) and then met with some of the RCC researchers.



On August 18th, RCC hosted a special workshop on “From Past to Present: Spanish Research”, directed by RCC researcher María Luisa Gómez Jiménez. Speakers and topics were: Florentino Rodao (*The De-Hispanization of the Philipines*), Ana González-Rivas

Fernandez (*Gothic Literature: A Research*), Carlos Blanco (*The Emergence and Development of the Idea of Resurrection in Jewish Religion*), Carmen López Alonso (*Religion and Politics in Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State*), Jesús de Miguel (China: From the Olympics to Higher Education), Elena Pérez Hernandez (*Why Do Children Not Pay Attention?*), Juan Santos Vara (*Targeted Sanctions and Human Rights*), María Luisa Gómez Jiménez. (*Housing and Social Needs: Elements for a Debate*).

Harvard News

Julio Frenk, an eminent authority on global health who served as the Minister of Health of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, will become the new dean of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), President Drew Faust announced on July 29.

A former visiting professor at the HSPH, Frenk was the founding director-general of the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico, one of the leading institutions of health education and research in the developing world. He also served as an executive director of the World Health Organization (WHO), where he focused on bringing scientific evidence to bear on health policy. He is currently a senior fellow in the global health program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as president of the Carso Health Institute in Mexico City and chair of the board of the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

"Julio Frenk is admired worldwide for his leadership, vision, and remarkable record of accomplishment in public health," Faust said. "He is a highly influential figure at the crossroads of scholarship and practice, known for his profound concern with how scientific evidence can foster improvements in health systems and policy in societies around the world. He has a highly multidisciplinary outlook, a strong commitment to reducing disparities in health, and a deep understanding of the power of education and research to change lives for the better. His leadership experience in government, in the academy, at WHO, and beyond, along with his longstanding connections to the HSPH, holds great promise to serve Harvard well. This is an unusually exciting moment for the field of public health, and I am delighted that Julio Frenk has agreed to guide us forward in such an important domain."

Upcoming Events

September 1-4: Health Policy Innovation. Director: **Albert Jovell.**
[Programa](#)

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Javier Martínez Rosado, Commercial Law, UCM

Oscar Martínez Tapia, Political Science, UCM

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

María Angeles Montoro Sánchez, Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship, UCM

Fernando Presa González, Philology, UCM

Florentino Rodao, Contemporary History, UCM.

Raquel Galindo, Business, U. of Autónoma de Madrid

Jesús de Miguel, Sociology, U. of Barcelona

Maria Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Housing & Law, U. of Málaga

Carmen López Alonso, Religion & Politics, UCM

Carmen López Escribano, Education, UCM

New Researchers

Javier Flores, Marketing, UCM

Pilar Jiménez Blanco, Private International Law, U. of Oviedo

Agustín Madrid Parras, Commercial Law, U. Pablo de Olavide

Ana González-Rivas Fernández, Comparative Literature, UCM

Elena Pérez Hernández, Psychology, UCM

Pablo de Andrés Alonso, Finance & Corporate Governance, U. of Valladolid

Juan Santos Vara, International Public Law, U. of Salamanca

Javier Megías López, Commercial Law, UCM

Special Interview with Former Harvard U. President Derek Bok



“The Real Colegio Complutense could not be more timely or more central to where Harvard University is going. It is more important than ever. It is especially valuable because its mission is so closely related to Harvard University’s developmental process in understanding and relating to the rest of the world.” This assessment comes from former Harvard president Derek Bok, who helped Spain launch a partnership with Harvard University in the early 1990’s.

In a recent interview, President Emeritus Bok expressed his “pleasure” and “delight” in how this partnership has “prospered”. He remembers how this unusual partnership was initiated. “The creative and innovative administrators of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid at the time outlined an idea to create a foothold at Harvard University to help Spanish students and scholars study abroad. I had a strong impression that foresighted, imaginative people wanted to make a very determined effort to accelerate the process of opening Spain after the end of the Franco era to become part of the European and world communities. They were taking unusual measures to introduce groups of talented Spaniards to other cultures and educational systems in order to open up their eyes, become more cosmopolitan, and contribute to an awakening process. They saw a partnership with Harvard University as a valuable strategy for Spain to face the competition and challenges of globalization.”

“This idea was also important to me. I wanted to do more to internationalize Harvard and was looking for opportunities for bi-lateral relations with countries interested in such partnerships. Spain was willing to send graduate students and professors to Harvard and the Rector and his supporters were willing and able to help find funds. Harvard wasn’t interested in creating university to university relationships, which is why Spain’s idea of a partnership with Spanish universities and Harvard was so appealing.” Faculty and graduate students from UCM and other Spanish universities which have an agreement with UCM are eligible to come to RCC and take advantage of Harvard University’s resources.

“Harvard had created other partnerships before and since the one with Spain, but none has had such a physical presence or scale of involvement. The Spaniards, from the beginning, wanted to be independent of Harvard University. I understood that because I know that Harvard is a large institution and can swallow up smaller ones.” RCC owns the building at 26 Trowbridge Street in Cambridge. It was inaugurated by His Majesty King Juan Carlos in 1993. The Director is a full professor at UCM. Half of its Academic Council members come from UCM and half from Harvard.

“When RCC was in the process of being created, I was very enthusiastic and tried to help by, for example, encouraging people at the Center for European Studies (as it is currently called) to cooperate.” This relationship has flourished over the years with a number of Spanish visiting scholars and fellows admitted to the Center.

“My role was primarily to encourage the partnership. The real credit should go to the Spanish academic leaders who were full of ideas and never daunted by the difficulties or expense of bringing their ideas to fruition. They were ideally suited for the task.”

Interview with María-José Varela



“I was extremely lucky. My Harvard University sponsor, Professor Catherine Snow from the Graduate School of Education, is very friendly and helpful. She included me in many activities and introduced me to people who are valuable for my current and future research projects.”

Some potential applicants for an RCC scholarship wonder how to find a sponsor at Harvard University – which is a requirement for an application. María José Varela has some useful advice: “Go to the Harvard University website (www.harvard.edu) and search through the various departments to find faculty who have expertise in areas that interest you. I found, for example, that there were no experts in my field of translation studies. However, given my new focus on translation and bilingualism, I discovered that there are several well-known professors who deal with bilingualism.”

Another method which worked for María José Varela is to ask someone who was a visiting fellow or researcher at RCC for his/her recommendations. Carmen López Escribano referred her to Professor Snow.

María José Varela’s current research topic is the difference between bilingual translators and non-bilingual translators. She is studying errors made by translators. One of her initial findings is that in her field of translation and bilingualism, “bilingual” refers to persons who grow up using two or more languages on a daily basis. However, people in the fields of education and psycholinguistics, define “bilingualism” as anyone who speaks more than one language.”

In addition, María José Varela found specialists who taught her a lot about research methodology and how to apply statistics, surveys, questionnaires, and other techniques to bilingualism and translation. She learned about the theoretical framework and practical design of experiments.

What makes her story special is the personal relationships that she created during the three months that she was at RCC/Harvard University. She did not know any of these professors or graduate students before arriving. Yet, she leaves with expectations of working together on future projects.

María José Varela met a professor – Professor Christopher Dede -- by writing him an email explaining her work and her research group in Spain and expressing an interest in meeting with him. He included two DOCTORAL students in their meeting who are focusing on new technologies and language and, therefore, welcomed the opportunity to learn from María José Varela. These kinds of mutual exchanges are at the core of the concept of the partnership between the Real Colegio Complutense and Harvard University.

Professor Dede gave María José Varela a CD with simulated games for high school students which she will try to use in her language classes at the University of Málaga after adapting it, and afterwards report the results to Professor Dede. After some discussions, the professor and graduate students and she agreed to apply for a European grant for a joint project.

Besides having discussions with Professors Snow and Dede, she also learned from reading books and articles at the Harvard libraries. “The Widener and Gutman libraries are well organized; the staff is helpful; and there are millions of books!”

In the process of gaining new skills, knowledge, and friendships, María-José Varela feels rewarded in other ways. “I have learned how to do research better in my new field; have broadened my horizons; and enjoyed Boston, which is a very European-looking city.”

“From the beginning of my stay, I felt lucky. RCC provides a comfortable and friendly place where I can work with other Spaniards, have an office space, and gain access to the libraries at Harvard. RCC is especially helpful when you arrive and do not know anybody. Right away, I found that the Harvard professors are very accessible: It is easy to get in touch with them and they respond positively. It was a very positive experience for me and I recommend that others take advantage of the RCC/Harvard partnership.”

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

Two former RCC researchers came to visit RCC on August 8th. Carlos Rivero met Ana del Hoyo while at RCC in 2001-2002 and since married.

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