

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

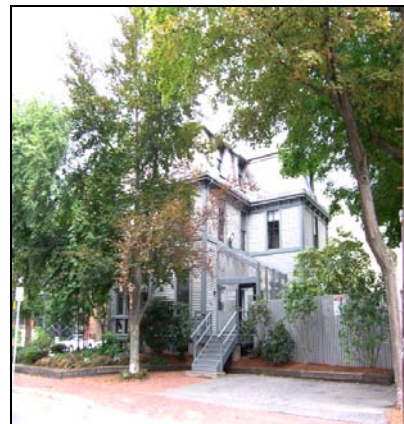


November, 2008
Bulletin #38

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 November

To the surprise of many people, October turned out to be the second warmest October on record and November continued to have some warm days. This meant that we could walk outside with no jackets or only a light sweater. However, most of the time, researchers are busy working in the libraries and in their offices.

The biggest news in the United States is the election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden. Emails from former Spanish researchers immediately were sent congratulating the US voters and looking forward to the next Administration.



President-elect Barack Obama

An American Thanksgiving dinner was served at RCC on November 27th.



RCC Conference Room ready for Guests

Upcoming Events

All lectures and films take place at the RCC (26 Trowbridge Street in Cambridge, in the conference room. They begin at 7:30 PM. The lectures are in English and the films are in Spanish with English subtitles. They are free and open to the public.

Lectures:

December 4: Rubén Arriazu Muñoz, *Towards Harmonizing Higher Education in Europe*

December 11: Daniel Mielgo Bregazzi, *Facets of Liberalism*

December 18: Javier García Amez, *Reinforce Powers of the Environmental Public Administration: the New Spanish Act on Environmental Liability*

Films:

December 5: *El Sur*, Victor Erice, 1983.

December 12: *Dalí. Antoni Ribas*, 1991.



The image shows a book cover on the left and an event poster on the right. The book cover features the title 'Diccionario político y social del siglo XX español' by Javier Fernández Sebastián and Juan Francisco Fuentes, published by Alianza Editorial. The background of the cover is a photograph of a large, ornate hall, likely the Congress of Deputies in Madrid. The poster on the right is for the book's presentation, organized by Alianza Editorial. It lists the authors, the date and time of the event (Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 19:00 hours), the location (Congress of Deputies, Ampliación 3, Sala Clara Campoamor, C/ San Jerónimo, 36, Madrid), and the names of the speakers: José Bono, Juan Pablo Fusi, and Jon Juaristi.

Alianza Editorial se complace en invitarle a la presentación del libro

Diccionario político y social del siglo XX español

de Javier Fernández Sebastián y Juan Francisco Fuentes

En el acto intervendrán junto a los directores de la obra

José Bono, presidente del Congreso de los Diputados

Juan Pablo Fusi, catedrático de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Jon Juaristi, catedrático de la Universidad de Alcalá de Henares

Jueves, 4 de diciembre de 2008 a las 19.00 horas

Congreso de los Diputados. Ampliación 3. Sala Clara Campoamor
C/ San Jerónimo, 36. Madrid

S.R.C. 91 393 88 90 / 91 393 88 97 *Aforo limitado*

RCC's Academic Council meets in Madrid on December 12, 2008.

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

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

Florentino Rodao, Contemporary History, UCM.

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

Javier Megías, Commercial Law, UCM

Jorge Jesús Leíva Rojo, Translation and Interpreting, U. of Málaga

Rosa María Rodríguez Izquierdo, Multicultural Education, U. Pablo de Olavide

Juan Pablo Sánchez Hernández, Classics, UCM

Rubén Arriazu Muñoz, Higher Education and Evaluation Process, UCM.
Javier García Amez, Administrative Law, U. Oviedo
Rebeca Barba Egidio, Zooarchaeology, Taphonomy, Human Evolution, UCM
Rafael Caballero Sánchez, Administrative Law, UCM
Camila Paz Obligado, Classics, UCM.
Ignacio CeballosViro, Spanish Literature, UCM
Alfredo Cuesta Infante, Computer Science, Felipe II Collage, UCM
Ludmilla Ortega. International Relations, UCM.
Nirian Martín, Statistics, UCM
Demetrio Castro, History of Political Ideas, U. Pública de Navarra
María Dolores Gadea Rivas, Economics, U. of Zaragoza
Eukene Lacarra, Medieval Literature, U. del Pais Vasco

Interview with Honesto Herrera Soler



“The more that I’ve been here in the United States, the more I enjoy the experience. I particularly enjoy the way Americans think.” Honesto Herrera Soler, an Associate Professor in Linguistics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, believes that Americans are “very open minded. They don’t mind giving their opinions. For example, students in classes at Harvard University are not afraid of interrupting professors and asking questions right away in the middle of the class i.e. Americans’ process of teaching and learning is participatory – back and forth discussions and debates. “That is a good lesson for some of us. I think that they seem willing to admit their limits; a fact that will allow them to be open to learning new things because if you protect yourself by not being open, then you miss opportunities for learning and experiencing life”.

“The great self-esteem Americans have is another point I want to underlie. My feeling is that they don’t mind if they become the protagonists of the story. I would even

say that they struggle to be on top of anything; something that would explain why any American has in mind to become president, chairman, leader or boss of any group or organization. They want to succeed in any way or any place. They are proud of themselves and want to be the “best” in any field whether it is researching, teaching, playing soccer or in any job position.”

“Well, my style of teaching reflects, to some extent, the American one: I intend to be very interactive with students. I pose questions. I never stay in the front of the room; instead, I like to walk around. I try to provoke students. Then, I try to generalize their answers to share the relevance to everyone. But on the whole, you know, I am conscious of my limitations and shortcomings. There is plenty to do and to improve in my classes.”

Like many visiting Spanish researchers, Honesto Herrera Soler attends several classes at Harvard University. He is currently auditing two: Introduction to Statistics and Research on Education. He is trying to connect linguistics with statistics. In Linguistics, as in other Arts and Social Sciences, statistics is needed to measure and evaluate the students’ achievement level. He thinks that this approach to statistics will improve his teaching and research in his subject: *English for business and economics*. He focuses his teaching not only on lexis and grammar but also on helping people prepare their presentations, interviews or CVs.

His second field of research is Cognitive Linguistics, a new linguistic tendency that Lakoff and Johnson, two Americans, introduced in the early 1980s. They think that metaphors allow us to understand what is abstract and complex in terms of something more concrete and familiar. Thus, it is very easy to understand when someone describes a **politician** as *a snake* and a **lawyer** as *a shark* and to know what that person intends to say. Obviously, neither is the politician a snake nor is the lawyer a shark but the way they behave may have something to do with these animals. He is involved in this sort of approach to linguistics and he is very concerned with the use of metaphors in the business press headlines both in English and Spanish. He emphasizes that headlines tell us a lot about what sells, attracts viewers’ attention, impacts and communicates messages. In his research, he has found quantitative and qualitative differences in the use of idioms in both languages.

One of the key values of the Real Colegio Complutense, he says, is the mix of people from different disciplines and fields of interest. That helps to discover the value of each other’s perspectives and opens new horizons in our research. As a matter of fact, he has established contacts with the Head of the UCM’s Marketing Department, to which one of our researchers at the RCC belongs, to work on the same issue from different perspectives. If the project goes ahead they will study the role of language in attracting and persuading people.

He thanks everybody for the welcome he received in his short stay at the RCC.

Interview with Juan Pablo Sánchez Hernández



PhD Classics, UCM. VF Classics, GSAG. RCC Fellow 2008-2009.

Why did you choose to come to RCC/Harvard/Cambridge?

Many graduate students and faculty members from the Department of the Classics in UCM have already been here as Visiting Fellows and Scholars in recent years. All of them told me that the Classics Department in Harvard has long been in the forefront of our studies. Harvard is endowed with many resources (the Widener Library, the Smyth library, the numismatic collection in the Sackler, etc.) and people here represent a wide variety of interests in a wide range of fields.

What are you doing while here?

I am mainly writing several articles on Greece and Asia Minor during the Roman Empire. I would like to publish them in English and in US journals. Academic supervision here is excellent and every day I am in contact with Harvard professors (in person or via e-mail). I am also improving my English by talking with my residence mates in Perkins Hall. I have met people from every state in the US. Every single American seems to be really different from each other, ranging from the Californian beach boy to the posh young woman from Washington D.C. (who, of course, earned her graduate degree in Oxford UK). I also met very interesting people from Germany, France and the Netherlands.

How do you feel about your experiences so far?

I feel very fortunate to be fully integrated in Harvard University: living in a graduate residence, having lunch or dinner at Dudley House, attending lessons, going to lectures, public screenings, expositions, researching in the libraries and participating in special events. Everything is interesting and overwhelming. I really enjoyed being in the US during this exciting election time. I campaigned for Barack Obama in New Hampshire (that state eventually went to the Democrats) the day before election day. I watched election results at the Law School (free pizza and beer).

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