

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



March, 2009
Bulletin #42

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 March

“There is so much sun here in Cambridge/Boston. I love the light.” These are some of the comments of several surprised Spaniards who do not expect to experience blue skies and days of bright sun during the winter in New England. Even though the temperatures are cold and snow is plentiful this year, the sun and growing minutes of daylight improve our moods. We are a relatively small, quiet group here at RCC.

RCC researchers and grantees are sometimes invited to come together for social events. In March, before Jorge Leiva returned to Spain, we had lunch at a favorite Harvard Square restaurant called Fire & Ice, where you choose the foods that the staff there grills for you. The photo below shows some of the happy participants.



Fire & Ice Restaurant Lunch Gathering

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR STAYING IN TOUCH: JOIN THE REAL COLEGIO COMPLUTENSE AT HARVARD FACEBOOK GROUP. We encourage all former and current RCC researchers and grantees (whether or not you received an RCC scholarship) to join so that you can communicate with each other, share ideas, and help each other.

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:

April 2: Conchita Galdón. *Can migration “boost” development in countries of origin? Big time! The case of Colombian migrants in Spain.*

April 9: No lecture. Easter/Passover Break.

April 16: Eukene Lacarra, UPV. *Domestic Violence in Medieval Law and Literature*

April 23: Neringa Kalpokaite, UCM. *Psychosocial Characteristics of Politicians’ Leadership Styles during the Successful Transition to Democracy: The Spanish and Lithuanian Cases*

April 30: Nirian Martín (UCM). *Statistical inference for Markov chains using Phi-divergence measures: An application to DNA sequences*

Films:

April 3: *Mataharis*, directed by Icíar Bollaín, 2007.

April 10: *Fados*, directed by Carlos Saura, 2007.

April 17: *Las 13 rosas*, directed by Emilio Martínez, 2007.

April 24: *Pretextos*. Silvia Munt, 2008.

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Rafael Caballero Sánchez, Administrative Law, UCM

Juan Pablo Sánchez Hernández, Classics, UCM

Ludmilla Ortega, International Relations, UCM.

Nirian Martín, Statistics, UCM

Eukene Lacarra, Medieval Literature, U. del País Vasco.

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

María R. Callejón, Economics, U. of Barcelona.

Carolina Rodríguez López, History, UCM.

María Victoria Rivas, Financial Mathematics, CES, Felipe II.

Neringa Kalpokaite, Political Psychology, UCM.

Nuria Puig, History of Economics, UCM

Ángel Rodríguez, Constitutional Law, U. of Málaga

New Researchers

Fernando Cabo, Literature, Santiago de Compostela

Ivar ZapataOlson-Lunde, Physics, UCM

Interview with Carolina Rodríguez López



“I am an historian and most of the intellectual and cultural historical debates that I am most interested in take place here in the United States.” Carolina Rodríguez López, an Assistant Professor of History at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, came to Harvard University and the Real Colegio Complutense to do research on a special group of Spaniards – Spanish professors who left Spain during the 1930’s, 1940’s, and 1950’s..

“Before the Spanish Civil War, a group of Spanish professors were involved in a project to develop a Spanish academic model. Do you ever wonder why there is a British academic model...a German academic model...an American academic model, but no real sense of what a Spanish academic model looks like? The project to develop such a modern model was eliminated under the Franco regime and many of the professors involved were purged and left the country. Most of them are embodied in the Spanish Second Republic’s modernization’s aims.

“The thesis of my 2001 PhD was on universities in Spain during the Franco era. I am doing research here at Harvard University on some of the small group of Spanish professors who ended up in the United States. Harvard University’s incredible resources allow me to read books, letters, and memoirs written about and by these people. Were they exiles? refugees? immigrants? I’m discovering that each person defined his or her own situation?”

“Some of the professors who left Spain during the Franco regime went to Latin America. The language was Spanish and Mexico, in particular, was very welcoming. These people were motivated to find places where they could continue to do their research and teaching. I am investigating those professors who came to Harvard University and other American universities, such as Pedro Salinas. He was living in the United States when the Spanish Civil War began and decided to stay; his family later joined him. He died in 1951 and left all of his papers to Harvard University.”

“I call this small group ‘the first generation’. There was also a ‘second generation’ of Spanish academics who left Spain and went to Latin America and the United States. These people were students in Spain in the 1940’s, during the Franco regime. They were convinced that they had to leave if they wanted to study and work with the ‘real professors’ from Spain (the ‘first generation of exiles’)”

Like so many Spanish researchers who come to RCC, Carolina Rodríguez López came because of the extraordinary resources of Harvard University. “It is easy to work here. My impression is that the librarians and faculty are here to help you develop your work. I can also search the library stacks and archives to find documents for myself.”

Carolina hopes that this research will become an article or perhaps a book. This field and specific line of research is relevant to so many situations around the world – where repressive regimes have caused experts to leave their home countries. How have their lives been affected? What are the impacts on the people who no longer benefit from their knowledge and experience? How is a country’s culture, history, and environment shaped by these circumstances?

“I realize now that this research takes time and care. I will probably not finish it during this stay. So, I may need to return at some point.”

Interview with María Frias Rudolphi



“I am a Tenured Assistant Professor at the University of A Coruna, English Department. I have been teaching undergraduate students (American Literature II--20th and 21st Century; Literatures of the African Diaspora and the Short Story; and African American Literature), and graduate students (Feminists Thoughts: From Theory to Practice).

My research project is about AFRICAN NUNS IN EUROPE. I was accepted by Harvard University’s DuBois Institute for African and African American Research and the RCC from October 2005 to September 2006.

My sister Lourdes was sick and died soon after I returned. I was paralyzed by sadness, angst, and tears. However, I told to myself that the least I could do for my sister was to fight AIDS with my own tools--pen and paper. I worked furiously and read eagerly. Once I started I could not stop. I had to learn about other lives who suffered from, fought against, or lived with AIDS. I managed to write an article that is about to be published. In "AIDS: A Disease with No Name?" I am shouting out loud that AIDS should not be stigmatized anymore. At the same time, I am engaged in a dialogue (both literarily and critically) with Jamaica Kincaid (at Harvard) on her own response to her brother's death in an unsophisticated hospital in Antigua.

Trying to find some peace of mind, I travelled with my daughter Paula to Senegal in November 2007--just before the rainy season--with a double task in mind. I went to do field work and work on a documentary on one of my Black Nuns in Europe. I also gathered information on AIDS in West Africa, and conducted some interviews.

I remember staying overnight at the Ile de Gorée, and going twice in the same day to the "La maison des esclavages" (This is the place where, for three centuries, African slaves were kept and then sent abroad). I sat on the upper floor facing the sea while the guide went through his well documented and critical talk for tourists--white and Black alike. I also remember that he was not willing to respond to my (also) well documented questions. It seemed that he could not waste his time with me. It was only when I showed up wearing my boubou and covering my hair with a scarf that he "noticed" me for the first time. Then, and only then, did he start talking to me. He was not repeating the same speech.

Quite the contrary. All of a sudden, his words flowed; the horror of a well known story embraced me, and I could not but listen to the guide of the "La maison des

esclavages" as if it was the first time I was confronting the pain and the horror--yes, the horror--of a traumatic and vicious act against men, women and children. Then, he shook my hand and he was gone. I was left facing the "door of no return" and the blue but nevertheless mysterious and menacing sea behind. I stood there motionless for what seemed like hours.

I was asked to be part of a research project called "HUMAN ECOLOGY" and I accepted willingly. We have already organized a Seminar and invited NGOs (Amnesty International, Intermon-Oxfam, Equus Zebra, etc). Topics deal with issues ranging from "African Emigration to Spain" to "Women in Times of War", to name just a few. My students have also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Bubi language and cultures thanks to CHERY MALE (singer), and PIRUCHI APO (singer) from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (a former Spanish colony). At the moment, we are organizing a Summer Course on Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates' documentaries AFRICAN AMERICAN LIVES. Soon, I will fly to Bremen for the CAAR Conference (Collegium for African and African American Research)."

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

Presidente: Ignacio Rodríguez-Alfageme

Vicepres.: Octavio Ruiz-Manjón

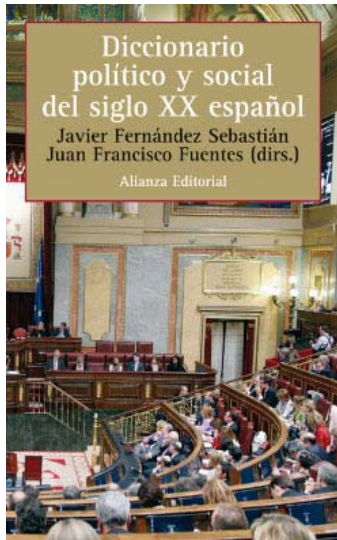
Secretaria: María Pérez-Ugena

Tesorera: Elena Gallego

Vocales: José Luis de Castro, Emilio García Silvero, Tiscar Lara,
Esteban Moro, Judit Targarona

Publications of our Alumni

Former RCC researcher, Rubén Arriazu Muñoz's (UCM) article, *The Development of Evaluation Culture in Spain: An Historical Approach Based on the Biographical Method*, was published in the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation (Vol. 6, No. 11, 009).http://survey.ate.wmich.edu/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/article/view/212/222



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*