

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

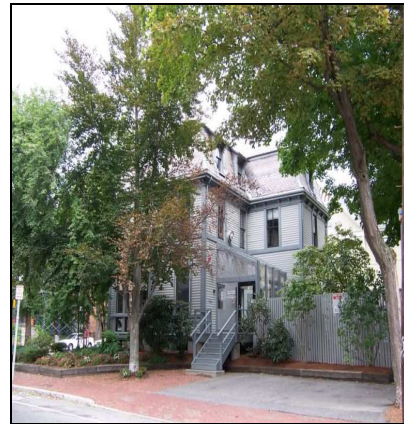


**April, 2009**  
**Bulletin #43**

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@harvard.edu](mailto:rcc_info@harvard.edu) (Elizabeth Kline)

Ángel Saenz-Badillos, Director



### Major Activities in April

The end of March is when students hear from colleges whether or not they have been admitted to college. According to the *Boston Globe* (March 31, 2009): "Only 7 percent will be admitted, college officials said yesterday, the most selective year yet at one of the world's most selective universities. Last year, 7.9 percent of Harvard applicants were admitted. The stiffer competition is not surprising, given the record 29,112 applications this year for the class of 2013, a 5.6 percent increase from last year that Harvard officials attributed in part to a financial aid initiative. The university announced it has admitted 2,046 students for the 1,655 spots in next year's freshman class.

The applicant pool reached an unprecedented level of achievement, university officials said. More than 2,900 scored a perfect 800 on their SAT critical reading test, and 3,500 scored perfectly on the SAT math test. Nearly 3,700 were ranked first in their senior class.

"We had never had so many good choices," said William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid. "Our new financial aid program encouraged so many people who might not have ever thought about applying to get into the pool."

Members of the incoming freshman class come from diverse backgrounds. A record 10.9 percent are Latino, said Fitzsimmons; 10.8 percent are African-American; 17.6 percent

are Asian-American; and 1.3 percent are Native American. Another 8.9 percent are international students.

About a quarter of the admitted students come from families earning less than \$80,000, making them eligible for a nearly free ride at the university. Two years ago, Harvard instituted one of the most generous financial aid initiatives in the country, waiving tuition, room, and board for students whose parents earn less than \$60,000 and capping tuition, room, and board at 10 percent of income for those whose families earn up to \$180,000. Nearly 60 percent of the incoming class will receive aid, Fitzsimmons said.

**FLASH NEWS: The Real Colegio Complutense was awarded a “Knowledge and Patience” prize from the Fundació Josep Laporte, Barcelona on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This special award was given for RCC’s dedication to the needs of the health profession.**

RCC’s Academic Council met on April 30<sup>th</sup> (semi-annual meeting) to approve scholarships for researchers, Harvard degree students, and summer students. One of the main topics is the renewal of the 10 year agreement between Spain (through the UCM) and Harvard U. More information will be included in the May Bulletin.

## 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:

**May 7:** Ivar Zapata, UCM. *Bose-Einstein condensation or the coolest atoms in the universe, and its relatives.*

**May 12:** Fernando Cabo, UCM. *On the historiography of Spanish literature: places, dates & names.*

**May 14:** Nuria Puig Raposo, UCM. *How Family Firms have become Agents of Globalization: Lessons from the Spanish Experience.*

**May 21:** Carolina Rodríguez López, UCM. *Amica America: Spanish Exiled Professors in US Universities.*

**May 28:** Ángel Rodríguez, U. of Málaga, *Spain’s internationalization in the foundational years of democracy: a constitutional law approach*

END OF THE WEEKLY SEMINAR SERIES UNTIL FALL 2009.

### Films:

**May 1:** *Carícies*, directed by Ventura Pons, 1998.

**May 8:** *Todos estamos invitados*, directed by Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, 2008.

**May 15:** *Elegy*, directed by Isabel Coixet, 2008.

**May 22:** *Antonio Gaudí*, directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, 1984.

**May 29:** *8 citas*, directed by Peris Romano and Rodrigo Sorogoyen, 2008

END OF RCC'S FILM SERIES UNTIL FALL 2009.

## **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

**Fernando Cabo**, Literature, Santiago de Compostela

**Ivar Zapata Olson-Lunde**, Physics, UCM

### New Researcher

**Manuel Lucena**, History of the Americas, CSIC-UCM.

## **Interview with María Callejón**

Professor of Economics at the University of Barcelona (Spain)



“People who see from a world perspective can do their work better” said María Callejón, Professor in the Economics Department at the University of Barcelona. “Spaniards who take advantage of the opportunity to spend time at the Real Colegio Complutense improve their research, observe Harvard and MIT teaching techniques, and become familiar with another culture and language. This experience is good for them and for Spain.”

In an interview, María Callejón explained why she was motivated to come to RCC and to the Center for European Studies at Harvard University for five months beginning in the cold month of January 2009: “Harvard and MIT are the best known and prestigious universities in the world. Any academic – any person – would like to spend time connected to these and other universities in the Boston/Cambridge area. In my case, after a period of four years (2004-2008) in a policy-making position at the Spanish Ministry of Industry, it was time to return full time to academic activity. My husband (who is an academic economist focusing mainly on health economics) and I have been planning for years to spend another academic period in US. This is the third time for both of us. My husband is now a visiting scholar at MIT. In my case, my good friend Professor Rafael Myro (who is a member of RCC’s Academic Council) told me about RCC and encouraged me to apply. I am grateful to both the Real Colegio Complutense (RCC) and the Harvard Center of European Studies (CES) for their support.

“So far, it has been a great and very, very valuable experience. I finished writing an article on firm demography based on research work begun in Spain and sent it off to a journal. I investigated how policies are used to stimulate the birth of new high technology firms. There are many such high tech firms in Boston and Cambridge, especially dealing with biotechnology. I have also begun a new research project looking at innovation and the channels that firms use to translate knowledge into innovations. Examples of this process include: knowledge about stem cells that help heal wounds and burns; use of laser technology to improve production processes; and how to reach customers better with internet technologies and new organization schemes.”

“My research results come primarily from applying theoretical economic models to firm and industries official statistics. Sometimes, I use surveys to collect primary data. In addition, by living in Cambridge it is possible to exchange information and knowledge with our colleagues. And it is possible to learn from meetings, workshops, and lectures; and from observing how Harvard and MIT are managed as institutions as well as how students are taught.”

María Callejón commented on how “Spanish researchers who come to RCC/Harvard are self-selected people: They are hard workers committed to research and publications”. They come here to use the university’s incredible library resources and advance their knowledge from close contact with experts, local and visitors, in their fields of study. She, like others, finds the time to enjoy “the arts, performances, Carpenter Center movies, the views of the Charles River”. This is a very good place to open up our minds.”

In her opinion, “the Real Colegio Complutense is serving a crucial function as a platform for Spanish researchers at Harvard. Its Board, its Director, Professor Angel

Saenz-Badillos, and his team are doing great work. One of the best actions that the Spanish Government can take to promote knowledge and prosperity in Spain is to wholeheartedly support institutions like the RCC.

## Interview with Matías Irigoyen-Testa



### 1. When you were at RCC?

From October 2004-October 2005, I was a Visiting Researcher at the European Law Research Center , Harvard Law School. From November 2005- November 2006, I was a Visiting Scholar at European Law Research Center, Harvard Law School and from July 2007-February 2008, I was a Visiting Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latino American Studies, Harvard University.

### 2. What are you currently doing?

I am a Full Professor of Private Law at Universidad Nacional del Sur (Bahía Blanca , Argentina). I am a Professor of graduate and postgraduate courses; I advise postgraduate students on their theses; I am in charge of ten other professors and lecturers and more than 650 students. I have the privilege of teaching in the city where I was born and of applying what I had learned from my research and writing periods at the RCC/Harvard University.

“I am also the Director of a Research Group Project (with eight research members) on “Economic Analysis of Consumer Law” at Universidad Nacional del Sur (Bahía Blanca , Argentina).

I am currently researching on the topic of *Law & Economics* relating to the last Argentinean law reform about *Consumer Protection Law*, Number 24240. I am also working on *mathematic formulas* to calculate the amount of compensation (compensatory damages) and the award of punitive damages.

On the other hand, I was appointed to be a member (representing the Law School) of the Assessor Counsel of Research of the Science and Technology of Universidad Nacional del Sur. Finally, I was elected to be a member of the Superior Assembly of the same university.

### **3. How has your life been influenced by your experiences at RCC/Cambridge?**

My life changed a lot since I went to the RCC. In general, I believe that I would not have been able to achieve so many personal and academic goals in such a short time if I had not the experience at the RCC.

First, I learned new techniques which improved my research according to international standards. At the RCC and Harvard University, I had access to the most important data base and bibliography available.

Second, through the RCC Fellow Conferences Series I learned about important issues from diverse fields on which other RCC Fellows and Harvard Scholars were working. Furthermore, after I gave lectures about my research projects, I had the opportunity to receive high quality feedback from the Harvard University community.

Third, at RCC I met some role models who were working not only in my field but also on other subjects. I learned that some people who are at RCC and at Harvard University are, in general, extraordinary people not only as scholars but also as people who have great positive values and, some of them, are working to try to improve the wellbeing of the world.

#### **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

**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.