

## Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**May 2006  
Bulletin #8**

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)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



### Major Activities in May

May was a month full of lectures and special events. On four Thursday evenings, researchers gave a talk and responded to questions:

On May 4, Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, U. Complutense de Madrid, spoke about *Nations of Identity: Latina Self-Reference & Critique of Post-Modern Deconstruction*.

On May 11, Matias Irigoyen Testa, U. Complutense de Madrid, gave a presentation about *Heterogeneous State Jury Instructions in the U.S.*

On May 18, Ruth Stoner, U. of Málaga, showed photos and spoke about *A Walk through Boston: a Walk through History*.

On May 25, María Luisa Gómez, U. of Málaga, talked about *Reflections on Housing Policy*.

There were also three special Tuesday evening events:

On May 2, RCC co-sponsored with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, a lecture by Carlos Berzosa, Rector of the U. Complutense de Madrid, *Los retos de Latinoamérica en el mundo global*. Dr. Berzosa spoke about development of Latin America, based on an historical perspective as

well as current theories. He focused on the economic inequality of the society as the main problem in these countries. He also described some faulty economic policies that have been applied in Latin America in the recent past. Economic problems, rather than corruption, are the sources of poverty. He proposed new policies, such as progressive taxes and a limited and temporary industrial protectionism.

After the talk, the Rector, Vice-Rector Carlos Andradas and Vice Rector Lucila Gonzalez came to RCC to meet with the fellows and hear about their research projects and experience at Harvard.

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A Panel Discussion on the *Jerusalem Database Project* was held on May 9.

Panelists: Professor Francois C. D. Vigier, Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning, Department of Urban Planning and Design at the GSD. Prof. Vigier was the former director of CUDES at the GSD, and presently is Director of the IIUDS.

Dr. Maria Luisa F. Mansfield, Fine Arts and Middle East Studies at Harvard University, Instructor at Harvard Extension School, and Consultant at the IIUDS.

Dr. Daniel Tsai, Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Consultant at the IIUDS.

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The Spanish writer José Ovejero, spoke on May 18th, about *Las vidas ajenas: es aún posible la literatura comprometida?* He argued how, in postmodern times, writers do not feel the need to defend an ideology through their stories. He explained how, as a writer, he prefers to follow their characters as living entities with no clear-cut moral

delineations, than to solve ethical dilemmas on the page. This type of writing allows for greater engagement and participation on the part of the reader. His views on the role of fiction led to a very lively debate with the audience. The event was organized in collaboration with the Spanish Consulate in Boston. Sponsor: Cooperación cultural Exterior de España.

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Academic Council member Brad Epps organized a special talk on May 26 by Carme Riera from the U. Autònoma de Barcelona and U. of Chicago on *La recepción del Quijote: entre el casticismo y el nacionalismo*. She spoke about how the Catalan people in the beginning of the 19th century viewed the nationalist Quijote character. She said that “the essence and existence of the Spanish are more like the knightly figure and less like that of Sancho Panza.”

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On four Friday evenings, RCC hosted the final free films for this academic year: *Los amantes del círculo polar* (1998); *Tango, no me dejes nunca* (1998); *Solas* (1999); and *El sol del membrillo* (1992).

## Current Researchers

The number of research fellows and associates varies during the year. We are the busiest during the summer months.

### Newcomer

**Eva Botella Ordinas**, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid, arrived in mid May.

### Reporting Researcher

**Angel Ignacio Laparte**, Law, U. of Zaragoza, left during the month.

### Continuing Researchers

**María Frías**, African American Literature, U. of Coruña.

**Matías Irigoyen Testa**, Punitive Law, UCM.

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

**Inmaculada Lara Bonilla**, Romance Languages, UCM

**Ruth Ana Stoner Nieves**, Language and Literature, U. de Málaga.

**Joan Rosselló**, Economics, U. Illes Balears.

**Fernando Merodio**, Philosophy, UCM

**Rafael Dobado González**, History of Economics, UCM

**Miguel Vázquez**, Linguist, UCM and Northeastern U.

**Cristina del Campo Campos**, Statistics, UCM

**Juan Francisco Fuentes Aragonés**, History, UCM

**Paloma Díaz Soloaga**, Communications, UCM

**Maria Luisa Gómez**, Housing, U. de Málaga

**Rafael Leal Aracas**, Law, Instituto Universitario Europeo

**Maria Amparo Bellvis**, History, U. Rovira i Virgili

**José Luis Ramos**, Economics, UCM

**Ferrán Roda**, Ecology, Autónoma de Barcelona

**Anna Avila**, Biology, CREAM-Universitat de Barcelona.

## Rector and Vice Rectors' Visit

As mentioned in last month's April Bulletin, RCC was honored to have Rector Carlos Berzosa, Vice-Rector Carlos Andradas and Vice-Rector Lucila Gonzalez visit us in early May. The Rector gave a lecture on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, co-sponsored by RCC and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and he met with RCC researchers and students at a special event on the same day.

Some of the group toured Harvard University's campus. The photo was taken in front of the famous statue which is supposed to be of John Harvard. In reality, it is not his face, but of some unknown person.



## Academic Council Meeting

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Academic Council met in Cambridge, MA. The members approved the 2007 Advanced Research Group's project, ***THE PUBLIC INTEREST. MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (USA-EU)***. The major researchers are: Manuel Núñez Encabo (Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid); Frederick Schauer (Frank Stanton Professor (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University); Nolan Bowie (Senior Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University); Emilio Carlos García Fernández. (Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid); Santiago Sánchez González. (Associate Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid); Alberto González Pascual. (Innovation & Development Manager, Sogecable Broadcasting Ltd.); Rafael Rodríguez Prieto (Associate Professor, Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla); José María Seco Martínez. (Associate Professor, Universidad Pablo de Olavide de

Sevilla); María Pérez-Ugena (Associate Professor Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid); José Joaquín Fernández Alles (Associate Professor, Universidad de Cádiz); Álvaro Pérez-Ugena. (Assistant Professor, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid).

The Academic Council approved 19 grants for research fellowship grants; 14 spaces for unfunded researchers at RCC; 20 grants for post-graduate students; and 9 summer grants for Harvard students. The Council also approved the budget for the current year; the report on RCC's cultural activities, courses and seminars; and an on-line RCC periodical to be called "RCC Review"

### Spring/Summer Courses

Real Colegio Complutense is hosting a number of courses this spring and summer for economists, accountants, lawyers, poets, managers, and political thinkers:

The Real Colegio Complutense hosted the Fourth Executive Program Seminar, from May 14-17. **Fourth Executive Program, Building Competitive Advantage in the Global Market: USA & Spain**, was coordinated by Marisa del Pozo.. Here is a photo of the group with John Quelch, Senior Associate Dean for International Development Harvard Business School's Executive Program.



Seminars to follow:

**June 26-30:** Third Seminar "Government restructuring: privatization, regulation and competition" Directors: Anton Comas; Germà Bel, UB. For more information, go to: <http://www.ub.es/graap/PresentationB06.htm>

**July 11-19** Summer Course on Management Research

**July 24-28** Second Accounting Research Symposium: Current trends on Capital Markets, Corporate Governance, Public Sector and Managerial Accounting Research

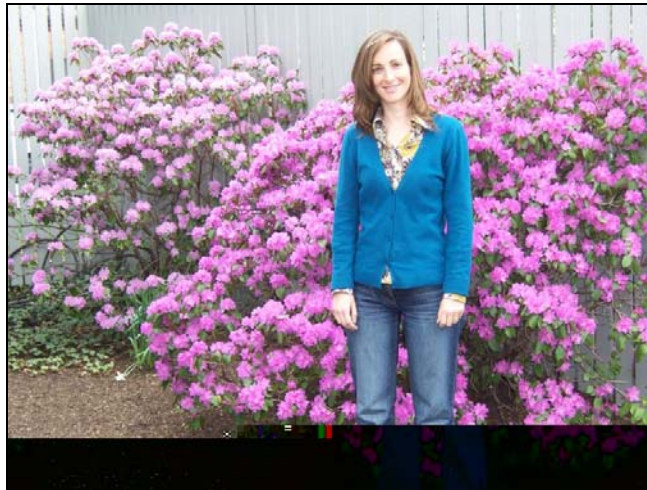
**August 2-10** Second Summer Seminar on Sociological and Political Research

**August 27-29** Hebrew Poetry Symposium

**Sept.-Oct.** Seminar on Commerce Law

**October** Seminar on Finance Law

## **Interview with Paloma Díaz Soloaga**



Paloma, an Associate Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, arrived in Cambridge, MA in the cold month of February. What compelled her to come here?  
“When I heard about the partnership between UCM, Harvard University, and the Real Colegio Complutense, I said WOW...I want to go there. I was also very much influenced by the encouraging words of RCC’s Director Angel Saenz-Badillos. He said that the experience would change my life.”

“He also suggested that I contact a professor who had been at RCC for a few months, and even sent me her e-mail address. That was so thoughtful and kind.”

“Clearly, Harvard University’s world-wide reputation was also a major reason for me to come to Cambridge, MA. I’m still very much in a learning phase in my life. Harvard is

one of the best universities in the world and it offers me so much – books, courses, people. In fact, my field does not have a direct relationship with any particular department at Harvard, but I found a professor who is interested in my project. Had I not been accepted at RCC, I would have had a harder time finding this connection.

As an observer of human behavior, Paloma found even more than she anticipated. I could never have imagined that such a complete university exists. Harvard has not only many resources, but it also has things that you can observe. For example, I learned so much from taking classes about how professors interact with their students. Classes are so interesting because there is a lot of discussion. Students are motivated and challenged to explore ideas. For me, the experience is like a window which opens up the world of learning and provides me with a new kind of research opportunity. “Professors work with students, teaching them how to write articles and how to work in teams. They mentor students.”

“I also discovered that people here aren’t focused only on their specific field of interest. People have an open mind, always trying to relate things one to another. People work together across departments. For example, psychology is related to art and to medicine. Besides, there are tons of conferences, lectures, and talks where professors and researchers present the findings of their surveys; some of them are Nobel Prize winners or very important teachers from various universities around the world. These opportunities provide an impulse for moving ahead with my career and to learn more about different ways of doing research”

Because of this openness and curiosity, I was able to do my video game research with “real” boys from various youth centers in Cambridge. The staff at the Frisoli and Area 4 Centers were so open, collaborative, and easy to work with. In America, there does not seem to be a lot of bureaucracy. It’s so easy for me to do my research. I got an introduction to one person who, then, introduced me to other people. They lend me equipment and help identify boys to play the video games for my research project.”

Paloma chose to live in Boston, rather than in Cambridge. “I feel lucky to live in Boston. It is only about ten minutes by bus to the Real Colegio Complutense. And I’m in a big city, close to cultural life. For example, I’ve gone to the Boston Ballet twice and to the Museum of Fine Arts. The Boston Marathon runners came right near where I live. I take walks along the Charles River. It is also convenient to go to New York City (about four hours away by bus or train) where you can find everything.”

When asked what she expected to take back with her to Spain at the end of her stay, Paloma responded that she will incorporate some of the teaching approaches. For example, she hopes to improve her classes by working more intensively with the most committed students; by organizing readings in a different way; and by using techniques that help students think for themselves. She also mentioned that she will continue being open-minded and network with others who might change my point-of-view.

“The director was right; this experience has changed my life.”

## Upcoming Events at 26 Trowbridge Street (7:30 pm)

The following events are free:

### Lectures (in English)

June 1: María Amparo Bellvís Giner, *The Relationship between the Romanized Saetabis (Spain) and its Surrounding Landscapes in the Western Mediterranean Region*

June 8: Eva Botella, *Spanish Imperial Decline and British Imperial Rise. A colonial debate?*

June 15: Rafael Leal-Arcas, *The Challenges of the European Community in the Doha Round*

June 22: Paloma Díaz Soloaga, *Using Video Games as an Educational Tool in Pro-Social Relationships with Children and Adolescents*

## What's Happening at Harvard University/Square

It is nearing the end of the school year. Harvard's graduation is later than the other 65 or so colleges and universities in the greater Boston area. It takes place in early June.

Merilee S. Grindle, the Edward S. Mason Professor of International Development at the Kennedy School of Government, was recently appointed as the new director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. According to the *Harvard Gazette* (May 11, 2006), she is "a specialist on the comparative analysis of policymaking, implementation, and public management in developing countries, with a special focus on Latin America." She replaces John Coatsworth who was director for the past 12 years.

## From Our Alumni/ae Association

On Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, **Ricardo Parellada** spoke on "Antropología y desarrollo humano" at the **Residencia de Estudiantes**. In June, Elena Gallego will be the speaker.