

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)



**June 2006
Bulletin #9**

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)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in June

June begins RCC's summer schedule. Our film series ends in May and begins again in late September. We did, however, continue to host Thursday evening lectures by RCC researchers.

On June 1, Maria Amparo Bellvis, U. Rovira I Virgili, spoke about *The Relationship between the Romanized Saetabis and its Surrounding Landscapes*.

On June 8, Eva Botella Ordinas, U. Autonoma de Madrid, talked about *The Spanish Imperial Decline and British Imperial Rise: A Colonial Debate?*

Rafael Leal Arcas, Visiting Researcher at ELCR, Harvard U, spoke on June 15th on *The Challenges of the European Community in the Doha Round*.

The final public lecture of the academic year took place on June 22. Paloma Diaz Soloaga, UCM, talked about *Using Video Games as an Educational Tool in Pro-Social Relationships*.

Current Researchers

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

Newcomers

Carmen Galán, Law, UCM

Carmen Alonso, Law, UCM

José María Moran, Sociology, U. Pablo de Olavide

Alejandra Bernabei, Law, UCM

Departing Researchers during June

Matías Irigoyen Testa, Punitive Law, UCM. (Matias will return for October)

Fernando Merodio, Philosophy, UCM

Cristina del Campo Campos, Statistics, UCM

Maria Amparo Bellvis, History, U. Rovira i Virgili

Anna Avila, Biology, CREA-Universitat de Barcelona.

Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, Romance Languages, UCM

Juan Francisco Fuentes Aragonés, History, UCM

Rafael Leal Aracas, Law, Instituto Universitario Europeo

Continuing Researchers

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

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

Ferrán Roda, Ecology, Autònoma de Barcelona

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

Joan Rosselló, Economics, U. Illes Balears.

Miguel Vázquez, Linguist, UCM and Northeastern U.

Paloma Díaz Soloaga, Communications, UCM

Maria Luisa Gómez Jimenez Housing, U. de Málaga

José Luis Ramos, Economics, UCM

Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autònoma de Madrid



Some of the Current Researchers

RCC is a sociable place. We celebrate the researchers who return to Spain as well as welcome the newcomers. Sometimes, we go out together to a nearby restaurant. At other times, we host our own gathering with wine or ice cream here at RCC.



Homemade chocolate chip cookies & ice cream



Picnic Lunch at RCC's Outdoor Patio

At the end of June, several new researchers are arriving including members of the Advanced Research Group. This Group spends July and August at RCC. They applied for and received a competitive grant from RCC.

Summer/Fall Courses

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

The first seminar (Fourth Executive Seminar) was held in May.

June 26-30: Third Seminar “Government restructuring: privatization, regulation and competition” Directors: Anton Comas; Germà Bel, UB. The objective of the Seminar is to advance in the knowledge of these issues. It is also an excellent environment that can allow establishing relevant contacts in the field of the public sector reform. The seminar, sponsored by FUNDACIÓN RAFAEL DEL PINO, is conceived as a seminar aimed at professors and researchers from Spanish universities and research centers. For more information, go to: Program information: <http://www.ub.es/graap/PresentationB06.htm>

July 11-19 Summer Course on Management Research

Program information: <http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu> (Go to conferences for a link)

July 24-28 Second Accounting Research Symposium: Current trends on Capital Markets, Corporate Governance, Public Sector and Managerial Accounting Research
Program information: <http://www.uam.es/otros/simposio/>

August 2-10 Second Summer Seminar on Sociological and Political Research
Program information: <http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu> (Go to conferences for a link)

August 27-29 Hebrew Poetry Symposium

October 23 Seminar on Finance Law

Curso de Verano de El Escorial

June 26-30: Salud y Gestión: Creatividad e Innovación (Health Policy: Creativity & Innovation). Directores: Juan V. Comas, Hosp. UCM; Manel Peiro, ESADE; Bruce Keogh, EACTS; Miles Shore, Harvard University

For Program information: <http://www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu> (Go to conferences for a link)

Interview with Joan Roselló Villalonga



Joan Roselló Villalonga, Professor of Public Economics at the Universitat Illes Balears, first came to Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and the Real Colegio Complutense in 1999 as a post-doctoral student in the Economics Department at Harvard University. In February 2006, he returned for a six month stay.

“I came back because, in Spain, I don’t have enough time for my research. I’m too busy teaching, participating in bureaucratic activities, seeing family and friends, and managing a home. I also believe that it is good to leave for a couple of months every couple of years, just to keep your mind open academically. In 2003, I spent three months doing research in Madrid.”

This time, there were no surprises. “I knew what to expect. I took advantage of Harvard and RCC: I attended as many seminars as I could. I interacted with prof. Caroline Hoxby, who is my sponsor; she is one of the best researchers in my field. I also took Martin Feldstein and David Cutler’s course. They provided students with hints of what the research agenda of researchers in public economics will be in the next years. I like the logistical support of RCC – office space, computer, telephone, printer, copier. Without RCC, I would be a “library rat” without a home base. I would also miss the companionship and intellectual conversations with other Spanish researchers.

“For me, RCC is like a river. The water flows and passes by. People come and go. You always meet interesting people with different personalities, from different regions of Spain, and focused on different academic fields. It makes you more open-minded.”

I encourage other researchers from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and universities, such as mine, that have signed agreements with UCM to apply to Harvard University and RCC. Here, people at Harvard help you. For example, I emailed a professor in the Economic Department to be my sponsor. Within ten minutes, she responded that she would be willing. Here I am on an island and so quickly I found a sponsor. I found that many Harvard professors are willing to help students who show interest and potential.”

While at RCC, Joan has been working in the area of higher education. His PhD thesis was on regional redistribution and its impact on growth. Now, he is focusing his public economic theory work on issues relating to universities. “In Spain, there is a change to create more competition among universities in order to attract students, faculty, and public and private financing. So, I’m studying questions about what might happen as this change gets implemented. In this sense, the US higher education system is a reference point because the EU members are pointing to the US system as a model to design their reforms.”

“I’m a theorist; I work on formal economics. I develop models to understand relationships. For example, if someone proposes to change the retirement age, then it is useful to know possible implications. People’s decisions will be affected by a change in the way pensions are computed and they may act strategically to take advantage or to avoid the effects of those changes.” Other public economists work on issues such as health care, and taxes. How can hospitals be financed? Do immigrants’ care get covered? What about co-payments in public health? How to get people to take responsibility when health care is free and they feel entitled to it? What happens if taxes to the rich are reduced or increased? How is the middle class affected? These are all very important societal concerns.

When he returns to Spain, he will continue to encourage interactions with students, having enjoyed the give-and-take atmosphere of the Harvard classroom. He will also bring in more comparative examples to illustrate his points with students. Having spent many hours with people from different countries, Joan feels that he has gained “rich arguments” and examples.

Joan still has more time to conduct research and enjoy the summertime in the Boston area. He is often one of the earliest researchers to arrive at the Real Colegio Complutense and works many hours. Still, there is time for sailing in Boston Harbor and other outside activities.

What’s Happening at Harvard University/Square

Some of the streets around Harvard Square are under construction, causing traffic delays. Eventually, pedestrians and bicyclists will have a more pleasant and safer journey around the Square. The improvements are the result of months and months of meetings with business people, citizen advocates, university representatives, and city officials.

Harvard University’s academic year is over. The Harvard Gazette is available only online. The print copy resumes in late September.

The new, interim president, Derek Bok, was the person who originally joined with the King of Spain in creating the Real Colegio Complutense in the early 1990's. We welcome his return and wish him well.

From Our Alumni/ae Association

On June 22, 2006 at 7:30 pm, at the Conferencia en la Residencia de Estudiantes, Madrid, Elena Gallego Abaroa, Profesora del Departamento de Historia e Instituciones Económicas I, UCM, gave a talk on "[Mujeres libres y economía. Las economistas de la escuela clásica](#)".

José Carrasco, U. Rey Juan Carlos, was a researcher at RCC in 2005-2006 and just had a book (Salarios Relativos en España. Teoría, evolución y determinantes) published by Instituto de Estudios Fiscales.