

STUDIES ON LIFE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

DIGNITY IN LIFE AND DEATH

SEPTEMBER 25-26 2015

REAL COLEGIO COMPLUTENSE

AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Respect for human dignity at the end of life and the limits of power available to each person regarding their own existence have become major issues in the Western world. The aim of this international seminar is to bring new ideas to the contemporary debate on euthanasia and human dignity in life and death in Europe and America in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. To do this it is necessary to analyze the philosophical principles and historical events that have helped shape the current views on euthanasia, particularly studying the cases of Belgium, Holland and the United States, as well as their treatment by public opinion in Western countries.

DIRECTORS: Fernando Suárez Bilbao (President, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) and José María Puyol Montero (Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: José Manuel Martínez Sierra (Director, RCC at Harvard), Christopher Tollefsen (University of South Carolina), Esther Cuerda (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos), Etienne Montero (Namur University, Belgium), Daniel Lage (Harvard Medical School), Carmen Losa Contreras (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Rafael Caballero Sánchez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid - Spanish Constitutional Court) and María Luisa Gómez Jiménez (Universidad de Málaga).

SPONSORS: Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University, Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid, Abigail Adams Institute, Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Program of Study, Research, and Advocacy.

AIM: Two days of discussion on the Euthanasia, directed to Professors, Fellows of Real Colegio Complutense, Researchers, and to Graduate Students from Harvard Law School and Harvard Medical School.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Real Colegio Complutense is a joint Project of scholarly and cultural exchange created in 1990 by an agreement between Harvard University and the Madrid Complutense University (Spain). It is hope that participants' home institutions will be willing to make funds available to permit their participation. Each professor will organize his own transport. The organization could grant some aid if necessary. Lunch, dinner and aperitifs will be provided by the organization.

1. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th 2015

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 'DIGNITY IN LIFE AND DEATH'

- a. 9:15am Opening Ceremony: José Manuel Martínez Sierra, José María Puyol Montero and Fernando Suárez Bilbao (directed by María Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Universidad de Málaga)

- b. 9:30am **'Legal aspects of euthanasia':**
 - i. Antonio López Vega (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): "Euthanasia: Discipline Crossroads"
 - ii. Eduardo de Urbano Castrillo (Provincial Court of Madrid): "Euthanasia in Europe: Specially the Spanish Case"
 - iii. Santiago Cañamares Arribas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): "Recent developments on the 'right to die with dignity' on behalf the Strasbourg Court and the Supreme Court of Canada"

- c. 10:30am Discussion (directed by María Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Universidad de Málaga)

- d. 11:00pm Break

- e. 11:15pm **'First laws on euthanasia and medical experiments on human beings':**
 - i. José Antonio Santos Arnáiz (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos): "Philosophy of Law, Language and 'Euthanasia' in Nazi Germany"
 - ii. Esther Cuerda (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos): "Nazi euthanasia victims as object of medical research and teaching"

- f. 12:15pm Discussion (directed by María Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Universidad de Málaga)

- g. 12:45pm Lunch

- h. 13:30pm **'Medical aspects of euthanasia':**
 - i. Sheldon Rubenfeld (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston): "Euthanasia After the Holocaust"
 - ii. Jane Driver (Harvard University): "Shift in Attitudes on Assisted Suicide among Physicians and Patients"

- i. 14:30pm Discussion (directed by María Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Universidad de Málaga)

- j. 15:00pm Break
- k. 15:15pm **‘The Contemporary Discussion on Euthanasia in Europe. The Current Laws on Eugenics and on Euthanasia in Belgium and Holland’:**
 - i. Etienne Montero (Namur University): “Euthanasia: law and practice in Belgium”
 - ii. Martin Buijsen (Erasmus University of Rotterdam): “Euthanasia: law & practice in the Netherlands”
 - iii. Michael Hawking (Oxford University): “Autonomy, Culture, and the Slippery Slope: Reflecting on Euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands”
- l. 16:45pm Discussion (directed by William English, Harvard University)
- m. 17:15pm End of this session
- n. 18:00pm Dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club

2. **SATURDAY SEPT. 26th 2015**

Harvard Law School. Wasserstein Hall, Classroom 3018

- a. 9:30am **‘The discussion on Euthanasia in the United States’**
 - i. John Keown (Georgetown University, Kennedy Institute of Ethics): "Physician-Assisted Suicide: a First Step to Voluntary and Non-Voluntary Euthanasia?"
 - ii. Christopher Tollefsen (University of South Carolina): "Dignity, Suffering, and Euthanasia"
- b. 10:30am Discussion (directed by María Luisa Gómez Jiménez, Universidad de Málaga)
- c. 11:15am Closing Ceremony: José Manuel Martínez Sierra, José María Puyol Montero and Fernando Suárez Bilbao
- d. 11:30am Guided Tour to Harvard University
- e. 12:30am Lunch