

New short documentary highlights the journey of a Puerto Rican scientist ^[1]

Submitted by [Mónica Ivelisse Feliú-Mójer](#) ^[2] on 6 May 2024 - 11:58am



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El documental "Coming Home" sigue la historia de la Dra. Mónica Feliú Mójer

Berkeley, CA – May 6, 2024 – The short film documentary "Coming Home" is set to premiere virtually on May 9, 2024, at 3 pm ET/12 pm PT. Directed and produced by Dr. Mónica Feliú Mójer for the nonprofit Science Communication Lab (SCL), the film explores her journey as a Puerto Rican scientist, delving into the intersections of culture, community, and science.

The documentary follows Dr. Feliú Mójer as she returns to her homeland to serve as the emcee of the national conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native

Americans in Science (SACNAS). Through personal narrative, the film highlights her upbringing in a rural working-class community in Puerto Rico, showcasing how it influenced her values and commitment to equity, justice, and solidarity, which continue to drive her science communication and engagement work today.

“‘Coming Home’ is an unapologetic celebration of my Puerto Rican heritage, and how my identities, culture, and the community I was raised by influenced my journey into science and the work I do today as a scientist and science communicator,” said Dr. Mónica Feliú Mójer. “The film speaks to the power of representation, community, and of bringing one’s full self into science. It also celebrates the scientific wisdom held by individuals and communities that have been excluded from the process of science,” she added.

The virtual premiere, hosted by SACNAS and the SCL, will feature a Q&A session with Dr. Feliú Mójer, providing viewers with the opportunity to engage directly with the director and delve deeper into the themes explored in the film. People can RSVP to attend the free virtual premiere at: <https://bit.ly/cominghomepremiere> [3].

“We love to feature stories that expand the narrative of how the public and students imagine science,” said the SCL’s Executive Director Dr. Sarah Goodwin. “Mónica is an inspiring voice in the effort to make science communication more inclusive and community oriented. We are excited for the world to see this film.”

"Coming Home" runs for 10 minutes and 19 seconds and will be released in both English and Spanish, with subtitles available in both languages. Following the premiere, the film will be available on YouTube [4], with an ASL interpreted version also available [5]. Viewers can also catch a glimpse of the film through its trailers: [Trailer 1 [6] and Trailer 2 [7]]. “Coming Home” is accompanied by educator resources in English and Spanish to facilitate discussions and reflections around key themes and concepts linked to the film in high school and undergraduate classrooms. For more information, including the film's transcript and educational resources, visit the official website: <https://bit.ly/sclcominghome> [8].

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