

## Submitted Abstract

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## Abstract

This project is motivated by the urgent need to preserve the beauty and sustainability of transhumance. The seasonal droving of livestock along migratory routes to take advantage of the best pastures, has been practiced for more than 7000 years. Far from being a relic of the past, it is a fantastic adaptation to changing climate conditions, and an exceptional way of making sustainable use of the natural resources that we have. While this ancestral practice is disappearing in many regions of the world, some farmers continue resisting in different contexts and conditions. With two feature-length documentaries, ARREO (2015) <https://youtu.be/DlI9xZchGZU>), and “TRASHUMANTES. Suso & Eliseo” (in final stages of production), we want to go inside the everyday life of two farmers and families in Argentina and Spain, who proudly still live this tradition and fight for its continuity.

Documentaries are powerful systems of representation that could build solid bridges between stories and audiences to convey important issues in a way that audiences could draw their own conclusions, not by imposition but by simple comprehension and empathy. That is possible only if we are profoundly aware of certain mechanisms on how we approach the story, how we relate with characters, how we portray the environment, and how we choose the narrative language.

Finally, we think it is necessary to highlight transhumance high cultural value, as it is an ancient practice that is transmitted orally, from generation to generation. It is not only a mode of production, but a way of life and a culture that makes up a rich, intangible heritage. We believe that the importance of documentaries relies not only on the scientific and cultural values we try to communicate, but on the way we build the narrative. We want to share our experience on the permanent learning process of communicating and creating the most direct bridge between stories and audiences.