

Camp Quest North

FAMOUS FREETHINKERS/COOL CRITICAL THINKERS

Stats:

Mario J Molina - Chemist



Image credit: <https://medium.com/>

Lived: March 19, 1943 - Current

Birth Place: Mexico City, Mexico

Why are they famous:

Mario played a role in the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole, and was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his role in bringing to light the threat to the Earth's ozone layer of chlorofluorocarbon gases. He became the first Mexican-born citizen to ever receive a Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Freethought and Critical Thinking:

After completing my Ph.D. degree in 1972, Mario chose to study a project that consisted of finding out the environmental fate of certain very inert industrial chemicals – chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) – which had been accumulating in the atmosphere and which at that time were thought to have no significant effects on the environment. His work helped show that the decomposition of CFCs could catalytically destroy the ozone layer.

Working with other scientists in the atmospheric sciences communities they were able to exchange information that led findings that were pivotal in communicating the urgency of ozone depletion. This work help communication the ozone issue not only to other scientists, but also to policy makers and to the news media - the only way to insure that society would take some measures to alleviate the problem.

Mario has gone on to work and win awards and honors for many projects related to climate change. Under President Obama, he was a member of the United States President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. He has several honorary degrees universities such as Yale, Duke, and Harvard Universities. Molina also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 from President Barack Obama.

Fun Facts:

Mario once converted a bathroom in his childhood house into a laboratory and spent hours playing with chemistry sets.