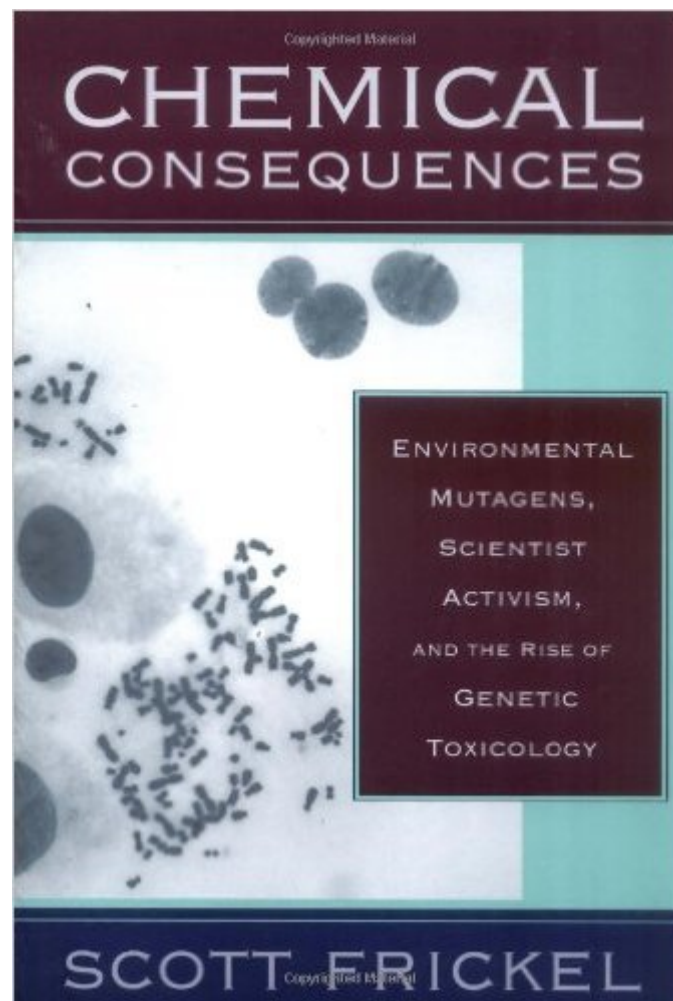


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Chemical Consequences: Environmental Mutagens, Scientist Activism, And The Rise Of Genetic Toxicology



Synopsis

Here is the first historical and sociological account of the formation of an interdisciplinary science known as genetic toxicology, and of the scientists' social movement that created it. After research geneticists discovered that synthetic chemicals were capable of changing the genetic structure of living organisms, scientists began to explore how these chemicals affected gene structure and function. In the late 1960s, a small group of biologists became concerned that chemical mutagens represented a serious and possibly global environmental threat. Genetic toxicology is nurtured as much by public culture as by professional practices, reflecting the interplay of genetics research and environmental politics. Drawing on a wealth of resources, Scott Frickel examines the creation of this field through the lens of social movement theory. He reveals how a committed group of scientist-activists transformed chemical mutagens into environmental problems, mobilized existing research networks, recruited scientists and politicians, secured financial resources, and developed new ways of acquiring knowledge. The result is a book that vividly illustrates how science and activism were interwoven to create a discipline that remains a defining feature of environmental health science.

Book Information

Paperback: 246 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press (June 16, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813534135

ISBN-13: 978-0813534138

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #427,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Basic Sciences > Toxicology #84 in Books > Medical Books > Pharmacology > Toxicology #543 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Environmental Studies

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