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Nota di contenuto	Introduction. The greatness and misery of science in a toxic world / Soraya Boudia and Nathalie Jas -- Part I. Knowledge, expertise, and the transformations in regulatory systems -- Precaution and the history of endocrine disruptors / Nancy Langston -- The political life of mutagens: a history of the Ames test / Angela N. H. Creager -- DES, cancer, and endocrine disruptors: ways of regulating, chemical risks, and public expertise in the United States / Jean-Paul Gaudilliaere -- Managing scientific and political uncertainty: environmental risk assessment in a historical perspective / Soraya Boudia. Part II. Activism and nonactivism: alternative uses of knowledge -- Work, bodies, militancy: the "class ecology" debate in 1970s Italy / Stefania Barca -- What kind of knowledge is needed about toxicant-related health issues? Some lessons drawn from the Seveso dioxin case / Laura Centemeri -- From suspicious illness to policy change in petrochemical regions: popular epidemiology, science, and the law in the United States and Italy / Barbara L. Allen -- Guinea pigs go to court: epidemiology and class actions in Taiwan / Paul Jobin and Yu-

Hwei Tseng.

Part III. Putting knowledge, ignorance, and regulation into perspective

-- Reckless laws, contaminated people: science reveals legal shortcomings in public health protections / Carl F. Cranor --

Untangling ignorance in environmental risk assessment / Scott Frickel and Michelle Edwards -- Low-dose toxicology: narratives from science-transcience interface / Sheldon Krimsky -- Unruly technologies and fractured oversight: toward a model for chemical control for the twenty-first century / Jody A. Roberts.

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Sommario/riassunto

In spite of decades of research on toxicants, along with the growing role of scientific expertise in public policy and the unprecedented rise in the number of national and international institutions dealing with environmental health issues, problems surrounding contaminants and their effects on health have never appeared so important, sometimes to the point of appearing insurmountable. This calls for a reconsideration of the roles of scientific knowledge and expertise in the definition and management of toxic issues, which this book seeks to do. It looks at complex historical, social, and political dynamics, made up of public controversies, environmental and health crises, economic interests, and political responses, and demonstrates how and to what extent scientific knowledge about toxicants has been caught between scientific, economic, and political imperatives.

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