Considerations of Chemical Synthesis:

Learning from Past Mistakes to Ensure a Safer Future

PRESENTER Caranda Prater

MAJOR: Environmental Science

ADVISOR: Jeremy Davis, Ph.D





Historical Context

- Synthetic chemicals have a good and bad side
- Humans have used toxic chemicals without understanding impacts on health and the environment.
- In recent times, several toxic chemicals have been identified and regulated due to their harmful effects.

Examples of regulated toxic chemicals include:

- o DDT
- o PCB's
- o BPA's
- Not out of the woods!
 - o 6PPD-Q





My Questions

- How to cope with inseparability from synthesized chemicals?
- Implications of current systems and use of chemicals?
- Are current frameworks ethical, equitable, and adequate?

Method of Analysis: Qualitative AnalysisLiterature Review



Frameworks of Analysis

ETHICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ECOLOGICAL Historical and cultural contexts Rarely is someone free of Low-income and marginalized affect priorities culpability communities Not reflective of reparation Direct involvement from All environmental agencies impacted communities have their unique set of delegation shortcomings Not universally regulated



The Globe

 Use in commercial settings without independent review

 High mobility or significant or widespread use

 We (humans) love trends and so does the market Rapidly changing circumstances can confound policy

There are exceptions to policy





Ok...Now What?

- Apply green chemistry principles to chemical synthesis/use
 - Investment in safer, sustainable technology
- Adjust frameworks
 - Add provisions for response to harmful chemicals
 - Stricter regulation and enforcement (particularly commercially)





REFERENCES



Llored, J.-P., & Sarrade, S. (2016). Connecting the philosophy of chemistry, green chemistry, and moral philosophy. Foundations of Chemistry, 18(2), 153-165. doi: 10.1007/s10698-015-9231-6.

Llored, J.-P. (2017). Ethics and Chemical Regulation: The Case of REACH. Journal of Business Ethics, 142(2), 323-336. doi: 10.1007/s10551-015-2795-1

Schummer, J. (2002). Ethics of Chemical Synthesis.

Schummer, J. (2006). The Philosophy of Chemistry: From Infancy Toward Maturity. University of California Press.

Addressing Environmental Justice to Achieve Health Equity. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2023, from https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2020/01/14/addressing-environmental-justice-to-achieve-health-equity

Suarez-Balcazar, Y. (2020). Meaningful Engagement in Research: Community Residents as Co-creators of Knowledge. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 65(3–4), 261–271. https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12414

He, G., Lu, Y., Mol, A. P. J., & Beckers, T. (2012). Changes and challenges: China's environmental management in transition. *Environmental Development*, *3*, 25–38. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2012.05.005

Understanding REACH - ECHA. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2023, from https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/understanding-reach

