



True Warnings and False Alarms: Evaluating Fears About the Health Risks of Technology, 1948-1971

By Allan Mazur

Taylor Francis Inc, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 229 x 150 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Given time, scientists reach consensus about the truth or falsity of a wide range of alleged hazards. Today, there is broad agreement that CFCs destroy stratospheric ozone. On the other hand, research does not support claims that electromagnetic fields from transmission lines cause a noticeable increase of leukemia. But new allegations continuously arise. Are manufactured chemicals in the environment distorting normal hormonal processes in our bodies? Are genetically modified foods a cause for concern? Addressing one of the most vexing problems in risk policy, Allan Mazur asks how we can tell, at an early stage, how seriously we should take a new warning. To identify hallmarks that could help predict the truth or falsity of an alleged hazard, Mazur analyzes 31 health warnings raised during the 1950s and 1960s about diverse technologies, including fluoridation, DDT, cyclamate, nuclear weapons testing, and birth control pills. Among his considerations are the initial source of an alarm, the biases held by its primary sponsors, and the type of media coverage it receives. With 30 to 50 years of hindsight,...



Reviews

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