

**Call for Papers: Session on the Pesticide Chemical Industry in the 20th Century**  
*Sponsored by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC)*

*14th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (ICHC)*  
*Valencia, Spain - June 2025*

<https://esdeveniments.uv.es/116631/detail/14th-international-conference-on-the-history-of-chemistry-14ichc.html>

We invite scholars to submit papers for a session dedicated to an in-depth exploration of the history of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century pesticide industry, with a special focus on its scientific, social, and regulatory dimensions. This session seeks to offer a comprehensive overview of the processes through which pesticides were developed, commercialized, regulated, and perceived, as well as their enduring impacts on public health, agriculture, and the environment.

This session will investigate the scientific advancements that facilitated the creation and widespread adoption of chemical pesticides, paying particular attention to the role of innovations in chemistry. We welcome submissions that critically analyze the technological breakthroughs behind pesticide innovations, as well as those that examine the complex relationships between chemical industry, governmental agencies, and international regulatory bodies. Contributors are encouraged to explore how regulatory frameworks were informed by scientific knowledge, economic interests, and public health requirements. These frameworks were often the product of intricate interactions involving the chemical industry, policymakers, and scientific communities, wherein both collaboration and conflict played a role in shaping policies governing pesticide usage.

We also invite contributions that address the social, environmental, and health impacts of pesticide use. The widespread application of pesticides in agriculture had far-reaching effects on public health, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Papers that investigate the risks posed by pesticide exposure to human health, as well as those that assess the long-term environmental consequences, are particularly welcome, as they will deepen our understanding of the toxic legacy of these chemicals in the modern world.

Moreover, the session will explore how public perceptions of pesticides evolved over the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Initially celebrated as technological miracles that enhanced agricultural productivity, pesticides eventually became the subject of significant environmental and health concerns. We are especially interested in contributions that trace the role of public awareness and activism in shaping the discourse around pesticide use, including key moments such as the publication of Carson's *Silent Spring* and the rise of the environmental movement, which spurred critical changes in both public opinion and regulatory practices.

Through this session, we aim to foster a nuanced discussion of the pesticide chemical industry, emphasizing its pivotal role in shaping contemporary agricultural practices, public health policy, and environmental debates. We encourage submissions that engage

with primary sources and contribute to ongoing historiographical debates, offering new insights into the intersections between science, industry, society, and the environment.

**Submission Deadline:**

Please submit proposals that engage with these themes by **November 15th, 2024** to Silvia Pérez-Criado. Further details, please contact at [silvia.perez-criado@uv.es](mailto:silvia.perez-criado@uv.es)