

A World beyond the Toxic Ruins of Slavery and Colonization: The Struggle against Chlordecone in the French Antilles (1969-2019)

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My writing fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center is dedicated to a book project entitled *A world beyond the toxic ruins of slavery and colonization: The struggle against chlordecone in the French Antilles (1969-2019)*. Based on a five-year-long research project completed during my doctoral dissertation (2011-2016) and additional fieldwork in 2018-2019, this book offers an interdisciplinary study of the use of an organochlorine compound called "chlordecone" (also known as Kepone), the subsequent contamination of the French Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, and the scientific and political responses of the authorities and civil societies. Joining a historical study, a sociological inquiry, and a political philosophy analysis of this toxic contamination, this book argues that the chlordecone (CLD) case exacerbates contemporary social and political disputes related to the colonial and slavery foundations of these two former French colonies. In return, it shows the ongoing struggle of local inhabitants to defend their bodies, the land they inhabit, and their future.