This video is a transcript from an interview discussing Melina's book on toxic sexual politics, published by NYU Press. In the conversation, Melina explains her motivations for writing the book, which stem from both personal experiences and her academic training. She highlights the issues surrounding toxic exposure faced by marginalized farm workers in California, particularly due to agricultural pesticides, and relates this to her family's history with chemical exposure.

Melina critiques the field of toxicology, arguing that it is rooted in colonial, patriarchal, and racist ideologies that continue to influence its methods and outcomes. She emphasizes the need for a feminist critique of toxicology and calls for scientists to confront the harmful histories within their disciplines. She discusses her research methodology, which involved qualitative methods, such as interviews and ethnographic observations within toxical classrooms.

The conversation also covers the historical ties between toxicology and the chemical industry, noting that early toxicologists were aligned with corporate interests and focused on making toxic substances safe for economic purposes rather than protecting public health. Melina argues that the political and structural biases within toxicology must be acknowledged to improve the discipline's approach to environmental justice.

Further, Melina advocates for the incorporation of Black feminist and queer theories to analyze toxicology critically, suggesting that these perspectives can provide better insights into the impacts of toxicants on communities. She concludes by emphasizing the importance of collaboration between critical theorists and practicing toxicologists to create a more equitable and justice-oriented understanding of toxicology and public health. Overall, her hope is for readers to recognize and address the underlying political influences in scientific fields to produce better-informed policies and practices.