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Thomas Fetzer is Assistant Professor for European Studies at Central European University in Budapest. His research interests include the relationship between nationalism and the international economy, the comparative political economy of labour and industrial relations, European Union social policy and the European social model, and the methodological debates on the relationship between history and the social sciences. His book *Paradoxes of Internationalization: German and British Trade Union Politics at Ford and General Motors (1967–2000)* was published by Manchester University Press in 2012.

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Andrea Westermann is a lecturer at the University of Zurich. A historian of science, technology and the environment, she wrote the first concise history of plastics in Germany, *Plastik und politische Kultur in Westdeutschland* (Chronos, 2007). In it she analysed plastics production and consumption and their significance for West Germany's rising consumer democracy. Her book raised the questions of health and the environmental risks of PVC. In her article, she develops these insights more deeply for the case of plastic waste. Other relevant publications include 'The material politics of vinyl: How the state, industry and citizens created and transformed West Germany's consumer democracy', in Jennifer Gabrys, Gay Hawkins, Mike Michael, eds, *Accumulation: The Material Politics of Plastic* (Routledge, forthcoming July 2013) and 'Die Oberflächlichkeit der Massenkultur: Plastik und die Verbraucherdemokratisierung der Bundesrepublik', in *Historische Anthropologie* 16, 1 (2008).

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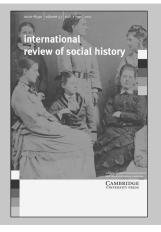
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