Socialist Modern

East German Everyday Culture and Politics

Katherine Pence
and Paul Betts

EDITORS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Ann Arbor
## Contents

**Introduction**  
*Katherine Pence and Paul Betts*  

**SELVES**  
Homo Munitus: The East German Observed  
*Greg Eghigian*  

East Germany's Sexual Evolution  
*Dagmar Herzog*  

Building Socialism at Home: The Case of East German Interiors  
*Paul Betts*  

The Travels of Bettina Humpel: One Stasi File and Narratives of State and Self in East Germany  
*Alon Confino*  

**BELONGING**  
Youth as Internal Enemy: Conflicts in the Education Dictatorship of the 1960s  
*Dorothee Wierling*  

“The Benefits of Health Must Spread Among All”: International Solidarity, Health, and Race in the East German Encounter with the Third World  
*Young-Sun Hong*
"Asociality" and Modernity: The GDR as a Welfare Dictatorship
Thomas Lindenberger

The World of Men’s Work, East and West
Alf Lüdtke

DESIREs

Shopping, Sewing, Networking, Complaining: Consumer Culture and the Relationship between State and Society in the GDR
Judd Stitziel

Women on the Verge: Consumers between Private Desires and Public Crisis
Katherine Pence

Alternative Rationalities, Strange Dreams, Absurd Utopias: On Socialist Advertising and Market Research
Ina Merkel

Re-Presenting the Socialist Modern: Museums and Memory in the Former GDR
Daphne Berdahl

Contributors
Index

Introduction
Katherine Pence and Paul Betts

The reunification of Germany in 1989 may have put an end to the experiment, but its historical assessment is far from predictable by-product of the Wende itself. History from its cold war confines. Discussion about the meaning of the past has largely been inspired by the country’s changed place in a new geopolitics, a pronounced uncertainty about the historical role within the broader context of European and world history. Even if one might think history is somehow coterminous with classical modernity,” the framework for many observers, this is all the more familiar narratives of modern Germany—especially those of the Weimar Republic and even liberalism—seemed to have explanatory power, driving idealism. Had the Berlin Wall been dismantled before the Berlin Wall was torn down, the 1995 Hamburg exloded. Wehrmacht soldier, the opening of the construction of the Berlin Holo