This book examines the new economic governance (NEG) regime that the EU adopted after 2008. Its novel research design captures the supranational formulation of NEG prescriptions and their uneven deployment across countries (Germany, Italy, Ireland, Romania), policy areas (employment relations, public services), and sectors (transport, water, healthcare). The new regime led to a much more vertical mode of EU integration, and its commodification agenda unleashed a plethora of union and social-movement protests, including transnationally. The book presents findings that are crucial for the prospects of European democracy, as labour politics is essential in framing the struggles about the direction of NEG along a commodification–decommodification axis rather than a national–EU axis. To shed light on corresponding processes at the EU level, it upscales insights on the historical role that labour movements have played in the development of democracy and welfare states. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.


Imre Szabó is the author of The New Face of Labour Protest (Routledge, under contract). His research in comparative political economy, labour politics, social movements, and EU water policy has appeared in Economic and Industrial Democracy, European Journal of Industrial Relations, European Policy Analysis, Journal of Common Market Studies, and Transfer.

Vincenzo Maccarrone is the author of several articles on the international political economy, workers in the platform economy, comparative employment relations, and transnational governance appearing in the British Journal of Industrial Relations, Economic and Industrial Democracy, European Journal of Industrial Relations, Global Labour Journal, Global Political Economy, Quaderni di Rassegna Sindacale, Rivista Giuridica del Lavoro, Transfer, and Work, Employment and Society.
Politicising Commodification

EUROPEAN GOVERNANCE AND LABOUR POLITICS FROM THE FINANCIAL CRISIS TO THE COVID EMERGENCY

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