Essays in pension economics and intergenerational risk sharing

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The work on this thesis started in October 2007, when I started as a PhD-student of Roel Beetsma as part of the Netspar research project 'The macroeconomics of pension reform'. I was very interested in the topic, but didn’t think it was a particularly high-profile one. While I was writing this thesis, that changed a lot, and ‘pensions’ has become a topic over which debates can rage with quite some fervor in the popular press.

In the years since the start, I’ve been working steadily at completing my thesis, resulting in this book as you hold it in your hands. During this time, the guidance and assistance of Roel have been invaluable. This goes both for the direct guidance in writing, improving, further improving the chapters of this thesis (our highscore is approximately 80 versions of chapter 4) and for the many discussions on the topics of this thesis and their potential policy implications.

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