Essays in pension economics and intergenerational risk sharing

Vos, S.J.

Publication date
2012

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements

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.

The second person to whom I owe a lot for the completion of this thesis is Ward Romp. Sharing an office, you taught me how to do some decent programming, how to use LaTeX, how to deal with being stuck in a project (all very useful), a lot about mountaineering and horses (interesting) and how to deal with very direct criticism of my work (occasionally painful).

I also want to extend my gratitude to Wouter den Haan. The time and effort you invested in the economics skills of the PhD-students of the reading group have been of enormous help to gain insight in the models and methods used in much of the macroeconomic literature. Honestly, every PhD-student should be able to be part of such a reading group.

Further, a big thanks goes to the researchers of the Netspar macroeconomics theme for the great interaction and discussions at conferences, theme meetings and Netspar days, and to my colleagues at the MInt research group at the UvA for the countless informal discussions and advice on research, teaching and football during lunch, coffee, dinner and drinks.

Chapter 5 of this thesis owes its existence to MN. For the first six months of 2011, I did a research project at MN aimed at quantifying the effects of a number of proposals
for a new occupational pension contract. The report generated in that research is the basis from which I started working on Chapter 5.

Ik wil dit voorwoord graag afsluiten door iedereen te bedanken die me over de afgelopen jaren voortdurend gesteund heeft tijdens het schrijven van dit proefschrift. Jullie weten wel wie jullie zijn: pa, ma, mijn zusjes, familie, vrienden en vriendinnen, begane collega’s, uit de grond van mijn hart: bedankt!

Siert Jan Vos
November 2012