Political economics in the laboratory

Tyszler, M.

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.
Preface

The path that brought me to do my PhD at the University of Amsterdam started in June 2004 in São Paulo, Brazil. At that time I had just started a Master’s program in Public Administration and Government at the Fundação Getúlio Vargas and in the mid-year holiday I chose to take the intensive Master’s course in Economics, which was offered that year by a Dutch Professor, Arthur Schram, on a topic I had never heard of: Experimental Economics.

By the end of the three very intense weeks (3 hours of classes per day, every day), Arthur and I got along quite well and he told me about the Tinbergen Institute and the possibilities here. As I was concluding my Master’s, I successfully applied to the 5 year program (2 year Master’s program in Economics plus 3 years of PhD research) at the Tinbergen Institute. Already on my second year I had a desk at CREED (Center for Research in Experimental Economics and Political Decision Maker) where I wrote my Master Thesis under Arthur’s supervision.

CREED is certainly a wonderful place to do your PhD. The several people with different levels of experience and research focus provide an optimal and open learning environment hard to be found elsewhere. Along the people I met at CREED during these years I should mention and thank Eva and Michal, my first officemates, Julianna, Roel and Pedro, my following officemates, the other PhD students, Adrian, Jona, Thomas, Julian, Ben, Ailko, Audrey, Yang Yang, the rookies Matze, Anita and Boris, the Professors (assistant, associate and full) Aljaz, Mathijs, Klaus, Frans, Joep, Theo, Gonul and, obviously, Arthur and the one responsible for making everything run smoothly, Karin. I thank also the people I met via the environment of the Tinbergen Institute, the University of Amsterdam, ESA meetings, CREED guests and ex-CREEDers. These include, on a non-exhaustive list, Jeroen, Massimo, Marcos, Adam, Marie, Martijn, Cars, Bas, Marko, Zoltan, Petr, Julia, Marcus, Matija, Deny, Rei, Bernd, Nick, Fujin, Melinda, Robert, Ernesto, Jens, Ana, Martin, Anya, Aniol, and Marta. A special thank is reserved here for my co-authors Jon and Luca, who helped me tremendously with progressing through this thesis.

Spending 5 years abroad, in a place you have never been before and stays at least 10 hours flying away from your home place, is not an easy task for all parts involved. For their understanding and support, I thank my direct family, Henrique, Dulce and Michele,
both my grandmothers, who passed away during these 5 years, Nesia and Rosa, and my
other relatives, such as my uncles and aunts Sérgio, Regina, Marisa and Sérgio and their
direct families who were always interested in my updates. I thank specially my friends
Tatiana, Nathalia and Leo, for keeping in good contact with me, visiting and reminding
me of good things from home. On the other side of the story, I thank specially my great
(new) friends (and paranymphs) Roel and Clio, for making me feel at home here in the
Netherlands. I thank all the people I met via dancing and made my social life really
active. They include (also on a non-exhaustive list) Rob, Antonio, Mirjam, Armando,
Karin, Mary, Eddy, Erwin, Rene, Krullaine, Remko, Jette, Juliana, Maaike, Josje, Daiva,
Sander, Anya and Marion.

Most of all I would like to thank Rosalie, my most important ‘finding’ during these 5
PhD years. Jokes apart, since we have been together she provides me with great light,
support and help giving meaning to the things I do. Also a special thanks to her parents,
Martin and Marion, who could not be more welcoming and give me a family feeling also
here in the Netherlands.

This thesis is a snapshot of a work in constant progress. It captures 4 research projects
in slightly different stages of evolution as of August of 2011 and portrays methods and
topics that highly interest me. I will save the contents for the main chapters. It suffices
to say that regardless of where my research and/or career moves in the coming years, this
thesis (and the 5 years that took to write it) will always be a defining period in my life,
which I believe has provided me with the lenses and tools with which I want to see and
affect the world.

Marcelo
Maastricht - October, 2011