Optimal Strategic Timing of Financial Decisions

Rossetto, S.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

It seemed impossible initially, but I have actually finished my dissertation! At the beginning it appeared like a never ending and immense task. Over the years it felt like I was proceeding too slowly. Then finally, in the fourth year, I discovered that I had actually done it. I am indebted to the Scuola Superiore A. Anna for the stimulus and financial support to embark on this adventure and to the Universiteit van Amsterdam and the Tinbergen Institute for the generous provision of working equipment and a friendly working environment.

Without the support of many people, it would not have been possible for me to come to this point. First of all, I am grateful to Enrico, also known as Prof. Dr. Enrico C. Perotti, who gave me the opportunity to restart my academic career in a way that was suited to me, offering me the flexibility with my work that I so much needed. I am also grateful that Enrico kept on believing in me in spite of all the things that happened to me.

In these years Prof. Maurizio Pratelli has been an example and an inspiration to me as a person and as a researcher. How could I forget the evenings he spent in the cellar of his home teaching me the basis of the mathematics I used in my models?

A number of people belonging to the Finance group at the Universiteit van Amsterdam - Arianne, Ben, Dirk, Jeroen, Joost, Konrad, Liang, Netty, Petra, Pieter, Rachel, Ralph, Yiu - were an inspiring presence and support over the years. I am also grateful to Prof. Frank de Jong for his availability to listen and to discuss my modelling problems. I also wish to thank Prof. Bruno Biais who gave me the opportunity to spend some time in Toulouse while I was completing my course preparation for the PhD. Moreover, I am indebted to HEC for hosting me during the last months of my thesis.

I am also grateful to the members of the dissertation committee - Prof. Arnoud Boot, Prof. Stijn Claessens, Prof. Frank de Jong and Prof. Ulrich Hege - for their helpful comments on an earlier draft of the thesis, which substantially improved this final version.

Without the help of Elio, Mauro, Charles, Mathijs, Louise and Ada in making the final arrangements for the defense while I was away from Amsterdam, I would never have been able to finish on time.

The Tinbergen Institute was the place where I spent a lot of time, especially during the first years. Without the unique combination of warmth and professionalism of Elfi, Jeroen and Marian it would not have been such a pleasant place to be at. There I quickly met wonderful colleagues, many of whom became close friends. Louise and Silva immediately gave me a warm welcome and have always
been there for me; Ibolya, Klara and I shared in the first years work related and personal troubles and I would like to thank them for the support they have given me during that period; thanks also to Suncica, Aljaz and all the others that cheered up my life outside of work. I was fortunate to have met Neeltje who proved to be a great and patient friend.

Thanks to Elio, Mauro and Angelo without whom I would have never found the strength to finish the thesis. I am grateful to Silvia to have made my last months in Paris happier and to Maya for having stayed up all night to discuss the big questions of life. And of course, the Italian bunch was essential to feel less far away from Italy. I will never forget the evenings with the Club del Due!

Finally, I would like to thank my family at large who always believed in me and understood me even when I could not be present at some important family events. In particular I want to thank my parents, who were always next to me and who never made me notice the sacrifice of having a daughter abroad.

Silvia Rossetto

Toulouse, September 2002