The most valuable of all Capitall; a gender reading of economics texts
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Acknowledgements

The story has not yet come to an end, but this thesis has. Through a chink in history, with the opportunity to study over a longer period and to pose fundamental questions, with a grant from the State and a room for myself, and with supervisors with guts, this piece of work has been completed. I greatly respect my supervisors, Prof. Siv Gustafsson and Dr. Geert Reuten who are after all a neo-classical micro-economist and a (male) methodologist and philosopher of economic thought respectively. Not only did they both risk taking on this project, they also dealt with the fundamental critique I came up with, assessed it and most of the time accepted it and encouraged its further elaboration. The talks we had were often spicy [heated?], sometimes confrontational, but mostly incredibly interesting, illuminating and strikingly honest. These talks are over and do I regret that.

It is a special opportunity and experience to be involved in a whirl of events around the development of an exciting field of research like feminist economics. In the years in which my topic (the articulation of a feminist perspective on economic science and the economy) emerged, there was a complete absence of words, concepts, theories, and the frustration and anger that goes with it; like that of a small child that wants to stand and walk but does not know how. Then came the first texts that pointed in the right direction, such as those by Harding and Keller on feminist philosophy. Then self making of a start in economics by organising a conference to facilitate the writing of feminist economists texts that dealt with the issue of feminist perspectives on economic theory. An international conference, because nationally there are too few economists working on these issues. To see that this issue was being understood and acknowledged by economists from all over the world, whether it was Brazil, China, Sweden, Canada or New Zealand, was amazing. Finding out that these researchers had set out to address these issues, despite all the resistance they encounter, the organisation of this kind of research and implementation in the economics discipline are all things that are still going on.

The support of my colleagues from abroad, like Susan Feiner, Zafiris Tzannatos, Diana Strassmann, Bina Agarwal, Tony Lawson, Druscilla Barker, Maren Jochimson, and many others has been of essential importance for the completion of this thesis. That was the case in the last few years of this project; at the very beginning it was my sister, Else Rose, in particular who thought I wasn't crazy and told me so. With her and other friends I had those long and fundamental talks about 'the essence of things'. Many of these people were part of the student study groups who read works on methodology, and Marxist, feminist, and institutionalist texts outside the curriculum, and that offered me the opportunity to follow the lines of thought I considered most fruitful. I would like to thank the women of the Promotie Werkplaats Vrouwen aan de UvA, especially Trudi Nederland and Vasso Kantzara, for the many supportive discussions and for the opportunity to write my NWO proposal, which later on helped with an appointment as a PhD student at the UvA.

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Edith Kuiper

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