The most valuable of all Capitall; a gender reading of economics texts
Kuiper, E.

Citation for published version (APA):
Kuiper, E. (2001). The most valuable of all Capitall; a gender reading of economics texts. Amsterdam: Tinbergen Institute Research Series.

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: http://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 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.

In the meantime, the Working group Women and Work had turned into a Chair of "Emancipation Issues in Employment Policy" with Monika Triest as full professor. I want to thank those involved in this group - Han, Hettie, Henriette, Froukje, Kea and Ben, - which...
later turned into the research group "Comparative Population and Gender Economics", with Prof. Siv Gustafsson as Chair, for providing me with a base of operation and the constructive criticism, excellent dinners and many laughs a researcher cannot do without. I especially want recall here Marga Bruyn-Hundt, whose perseverance and persistency in her choice for her work on the strengthening of the economic position of women and, less well-known to many, her enthusiasm for the history of economic thought. She will remain an important example to me.

The research group of Prof. Mary Morgan - Marcel, Harro, Peter, Robert, Geert, Joshua, Jack, Adrienne - and later on, Prof. Mark Blaug, was very important to me for the way it provided me with an inspiring and fruitful environment where people's research is treated with respect and given space, including projects like mine. I have often described both these groups as models of how a good research group can and should function, and I will continue to do so.

I am grateful to the board members of the Feminist Economics Network in the Netherlands (FENN) - especially the co-founding members Nicky Pouw and Rachel Kurian - for the enthusiasm and the joy with which we worked together, the range of topics we discussed and the many projects we set up together, for which on many an occasion the margins of the agenda had to be filled out.

The organisation of the two Out of the Margin conferences (1993 and 1998) cost me a great deal of energy and time, but brought me much, much more, including the cooperation and talks with Jolande Sap, Else Rose Kuiper and Ina Brouwer, and with original and intelligent students like Mary Bloem, Nienke Oomes, Jetske Bouma, Gwennaele Brunning and Amade M'Chareck.

For various kinds of support I'd like to thank Nico Heemskerk, E. van Kreveld, Willem-Jan Schoute en Frank Visser, for their good company, and sharing of my PhD fun and misery, I want to thank Paul, Jan-Pieter, Aslan, Kim and Jaap and for the support at the home stretch many thanks to Carla van El and Irene Kuiper. Finally I want to thank Robert Helmink for keeping up spirits, Susan van Velzen for all the years of working together and friendship, and last but not least my cat Piet, who always complained whenever I did not have enough time for him.

Edith Kuiper

Amsterdam, 11 December 2000