

Editorial introduction

This special issue of *Statistica Neerlandica* is dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Econometric Institute, which was founded on 1 September 1956 by Jan Tinbergen and Henri Theil, at the then Netherlands School of Economics (now Erasmus University Rotterdam). At the same time, we celebrate the 60th volume of *Statistica Neerlandica*. The editors of the first issue in 1946 were A.R. v.d. Burg, J.J.J. Dalmulder, C.A.G. Nass, J. Sittig and J.H.C. Lisman. During the first 9 years, the journal was named *Statistica* and, starting from 1955, *Neerlandica* was added to distinguish it from an Italian journal of the same name.

These celebrations are a sign of the success of both institutions. Both are flourishing and have shown their relevance not only in development of statistical theory, but also in applications in several disciplines. Indeed, the Econometric Institute has established a blooming undergraduate programme in econometrics, which is, together with econometrics programmes at other Dutch universities, the only one of its kind worldwide. *Statistica Neerlandica* can be seen as a solid journal for statistics and operations research. The anniversaries seem to reject the Dutch poet Lucebert's remark "Alles van waarde is weerloos", which could be translated freely as "Value creates envy" or "Significance is defenceless". Therefore, we would like to thank the past and current members of the Econometric Institute in Rotterdam, who have made the institute what it is today. Moreover, we thank all members of the editorial boards of *Statistica Neerlandica* and the contributing authors for their effort in putting together excellent illustrations of scientific progress.

Based on the quality and scope of the contributions in this special issue, the Econometric Institute as well as *Statistica Neerlandica* are expected to be with us for many years. Hence, we are happy and honoured to act as hosts to a range of eloquent authors, skilled econometricians and eminent scholars, who all shed some light on their experiences with the past, present and future of statistics, econometrics and related disciplines in The Netherlands. This special issue reflects roughly the four topics of econometrics and statistics, that is (1) methodology, (2) data, (3) computer programs and (4) applications. Additionally, some papers give more historic and personal accounts of the past and views of the future. We believe that there is much to enjoy in this special issue and invite you to be entertained, surprised, enlightened or encouraged by the various articles.

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