I first planned this book together with Edward Elgar in the fall of 2000. In the meantime, I did some new work, besides writing this book. Therefore, the book is now a much extended and altered (I hope improved) version of the original plan.

 Chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6 have been based on my PhD thesis. I want to express my gratitude to the supervisors of this thesis, Mars Cramer as well as Joop Hartog. They have been (and still are) of great help and inspiration for my work.

 Moreover, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are based on journal publications. Chapter 2 is based, in part, on a publication in *De Economist* in 1999 (Van Praag, 1999), Chapter 3 in *Kyklos* in 1995 (Van Praag and Van Ophem, 1995), Chapter 4 in *The Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* in 2002 (Cramer et al., 2002), Chapter 5 on a publication in *Economica* in 2001 (Van Praag and Cramer, 2001), and Chapter 6 on a publication in *Small Business Economics* in 2003 (Van Praag, 2003).

 Last but certainly not least, I am very grateful to the co-authors involved in these journal publications, as well as those co-authors involved in the preparation of future journal publications on which chapters 7 to 9 of this book have been based. Chapter 3 is a spin-off from work with Hans van Ophem, Chapter 4 with Mars Cramer, Joop Hartog and Nicole Jonker, and Chapter 5 with Mars Cramer. Chapter 7 is based on joint works with Justin van der Sluis, Wim Vijverberg and Arjen Van Witteloostuijn (Van Der Sluis, Van Praag and Vijverberg 2003, Van Der Sluis, Van Praag and Van Witteloostuijn 2004). Chapter 8 is based on joint work with Niels Bosma and Gerrit De Wit (Van Praag, Bosma and De Wit 2003). Finally, Chapter 9 is based on joint work with Simon Parker (Parker and Van Praag 2004). Thanks to the great topic that the economics of entrepreneurship is and to the stimulating environment that these people, amongst other colleagues, have created I greatly enjoyed working on all of the chapters of this book. I hope you enjoy reading them.

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