

## Preface

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This text, like a pop song (and its valuation), emanates from a social process. Every word is ‘mine’, of course, but the influence of others is apparent through the whole of the text. Influence is not synonymous with responsibility, and so I should emphasize immediately that I am the only one responsible for the views expressed and any mistakes or omissions remaining. There are widening circles of identification and interaction as far as my work on issues related to this line of research is concerned. Closest are, of course, Paul Bush, Metin Coşgel, John Davis, Mark Granovetter, David George, Geoff Hodgson, Hella Hoppe, Elias Khalil, Arjo Klamer, Jürgen Lange-von Kulesa, Dick Langlois, Fieke van der Lecq, Deirdre McCloskey, Lanse Minkler, Bert Mosselmans, Juliet Schor, Irene van Staveren. A William R. Waters Summer Research Grant, generously provided by the Association for Social Economics, allowed me to visit some of them in the summer of 2002 to discuss how best to reorient my argument on institutional economics, consumption theory, values, rhetoric, and pop music (symbolic goods).

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Institutional logic has it that personal remarks come last in the acknowledgments. One should have good reasons to break with well-established institutions, formal or informal – reasons I do not have. Thanks very much to Marion, Marnix and Jorinde. For being there, and more.

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Wilfred Dolfsma