

Foreword

This monograph was accepted as an habilitation thesis by the Department of Economics of the Philipps-University of Marburg. It presents the results of a refereed scientific research project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation within its Priority Area 'Global Structures and Governance'. I am very grateful for the noble financial support of the Volkswagen Foundation between October 2001 and February 2005. Additional research was financially supported by the FAZIT Foundation between March and August 2005. Without the generous and non-partisan support of these two scientific foundations, this book would not have been possible.

During my research at the Philipps-University of Marburg and the New York University, Professors Eleanor M. Fox, Lars P. Feld, Harry First and, in particular, Wolfgang Kerber supervised the project and injected important ideas and valuable comments. I am very grateful for their continuous support and perpetual willingness for helpful discussions. Their input has clearly influenced this book! I am particularly indebted to Wolfgang Kerber and Lars P. Feld who willingly took the burden to act as referees during the habilitation procedure.

My deep thanks go to all my colleagues at Wolfgang Kerber's Chair of Economic Policy at the Philipps-University of Marburg during these years, who created a great atmosphere and constituted a wonderful team to work with. Many thanks to my scientific colleagues Friedrich Gröteke, Klaus Heine, Gisela Linge (thank you also for your editorial assistance!), Karsten Mause, Claudia Schmidt and, in particular, Arndt Christiansen with whom I intensively discussed several parts of the manuscript. Also many thanks to Annette Heberle and to all the student assistants, in particular Thomas Augsten, who worked with me on the project between 2002 and 2004, Margot Lörcher, Katharina Schlake and Christian Steuer. Furthermore, I am deeply indebted to Barbara Güldenring (Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature Studies, Messiah College, Grantham, PA, United States) for continuous and extremely valuable editorial assistance.

Parts of this book have been presented to several conferences around the world. I am very grateful to all discussants and participants who critically reviewed my ideas and, thus, helped me to improve them. I am also grateful for valuable comments by an anonymous referee in the course of the Elgar review procedure.

Finally, neither the research project nor this book could have been done without the support of my wife, Daniela Budzinski. I definitely did not spend enough time with you, my love, during recent years! And thank you for your editorial assistance with tables, figures, and so on.

Oliver Budzinski