

# **Stellingen**

behorende bij het proefschrift

**The Economics of Networks**  
Theory and Empirics

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21 december 2006

## I

The world of economists became much smaller between 1970 and 1999. (Chapter 2)

## II

Contrary to the hypothesis of the ‘strength of weak ties’, *strong* ties tend to be more important for connecting the world of economists. (Chapter 3)

## III

Everyone may prefer to form a tie with a ‘star’, but a star may not prefer to form a tie with everyone. (Chapter 4)

## IV

Even in a world with equal initial endowments and without discrimination, inequality in the labor market between social groups may persist. (Chapter 5)

## V

The effects of public policy on the transportation sector can only be understood if one recognizes that different transport networks together form a giant transport network themselves. (Chapter 6)

## VI

A theory is not a good theory if it cannot be described by a simple mathematical model.

## VII

It is a misconception that obtaining a Ph.D. stands for obtaining 'Permanent head Damage'. The head damage is only temporary. The increase in knowledge is permanent.

## VIII

Given that economists and sociologists often analyze the same research problems, better solutions would be found if they would talk to each other.

## IX

To determine the quality of a research paper, one strategy is to read the abstract and to look up the authors' CVs. However, this strategy is strictly dominated by the strategy to read the paper.

## X

When estimating the benefits to society of a research project, one should not only take into account the benefits from the direct applicability of the research project, but also the indirect benefits that the research creates by stimulating further ideas.

## XI

I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

Isaac Newton, from Brewster (1855), *Memoirs of Newton*