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Individual Consumption, Time Use and their Distribution for the Dutch Population

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Propositions accompanying the PhD thesis “Individual Consumption, Time Use and their Distribution for the Dutch Population” by Bart van Leeuwen

- 1) Preference differences between individuals living alone and individuals living with a partner explain the difference in their budget allocation(s) over market goods, in particular the larger share the latter allocate to leisure expenditure. (Chapter 2)
- 2) Living with a partner confers economies of scale in consumption of market goods, which do not vary across the household expenditure distribution. (Chapter 2)
- 3) Compared to using a traditional couples poverty line using a couples poverty line that accounts for intra-household inequality implies reclassifying a substantial share of couples from non-poor to poor. (Chapter 2)
- 4) The child care subsidy cuts that took place from 2011 to 2013 in the Netherlands substantially decreased daycare use by two-earner couples. However, the subsidy cuts did not noticeably affect their time use patterns including their time spent providing child care. (Chapter 3)
- 5) An unintended consequence of reducing daycare subsidies is substitution of formal for informal child care. The consequences of these substitution effects on the welfare of children and informal care providers are presently unknown. This is an important topic for future research. (Chapter 3)
- 6) Household labor supply and daycare use are interdependent decisions which can be effectively modelled by means of a demand system for daycare, other goods and time uses subject to rationing. (Chapter 3)
- 7) Indifference scales can be used to compare consumption levels of individuals living in different types of households. This method results in more meaningful comparisons than using equivalence scales for the same purpose, as it avoids interpersonal utility comparisons. (Chapter 4)
- 8) Individual consumption inequality has fallen significantly between 2009 and 2017 for the Dutch population of employed working age adults and their spouses. (Chapter 4)
- 9) Individual consumption is distributed significantly more unequally than implied by household consumption per equivalent adult. (Chapter 4)
- 10) Individual consumption inequality in the Netherlands predominantly reflects inequality between households of a given type (singles, childless couples, couples with children). (Chapter 4)
- 11) “I finally know what distinguishes man from the other beasts: financial worries.” (Jules Renard)