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The political economy of information management

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The Political Economy of Information Management

A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis of Decision Making
regarding Interorganizational Information Systems

Vincent M.F. Homburg

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

The Political Economy of Information Management

A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis of Decision Making
regarding Interorganizational Information Systems

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geboren op 9 december 1970
te Zaltbommel

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Prof. dr. H.W.M. Gazendam

This thesis is dedicated to Ine
(1958 - 1996)

Promotiecommissie

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Preface

In 1994, I joined the Faculty of Management and Organization of the University of Groningen as a Ph.D. student. Now, more than four years later, I think I can say that during my research, I picked up a fascination for the rich insights organization theory provides and I can only hope that this fascination shows in this thesis.

This thesis could not have been completed without the encouragement and support of a vast number of people, some of whom I would like to mention specifically.

First of all, thank you to John Simons and Henk Gazendam. Their guidance and support have proven to be indispensable to me in completing this thesis.

Furthermore, I would like to mention my (former) colleagues in the Faculty of Management and Organization. Without the discussions with Ad Breukel, Hans van den Broek, Constantijn Heesen, Tomas Klos, Han Numan, Margriet Offereins and Johan Oldenkamp, this thesis would probably never have been realized.

For the last two years, I have been involved in the Edispuut, a discussion forum for researchers working in the field of electronic commerce and interorganizational information systems. The Edispuut members' criticism, comments and encouragement (in that order) have inspired me enormously and created the feeling that I was not the only researcher struggling in the complicated world of organizations, decision making and information systems.

I am indebted to all members of the research community who defied the economic and political logic set out in this thesis by unselfishly publishing their thoughts, articles and theses on the Internet, thereby making it accessible to me and other researchers all over the world.

Also I would like to thank the members of my dissertation committee, professor Nooteboom, professor Maes and professor Brussaard, for their comments on this thesis.

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Arwin Nimis, Ivan Pouwels and Ed Stijnen have, over the last nine years or so, shared their friendship with me by, among many other things, having heated discussions about the sense of being AIO.

My family has gone through tough times, but nevertheless they have always provided the proper encouragement, in particular by not continuously asking how the thesis was progressing and by trusting that me eventually it would be finished.

I end this preface by mentioning Claudia, for her love and for sharing her life with me.

Vincent M.F. Homburg
Groningen / Zwolle, October 1998

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