

Preface

This research has started back in 2006 as an attempt to improve the practice of regional macroeconomic modelling with a particular focus on German data. I hope that the research results produced over the last years and presented in this book are of some value for its readers and may serve as a starting point for discussion and elaboration of further research ideas. Throughout the conduct of my research, I have realized that an ideal working process would need to rely on a recursive modelling strategy, which is able to incorporate findings from one part of the research also in the other parts. Unfortunately, doing so was not always feasible. At certain points, I simply had to make a cut, for the work not to become a never-ending story. This means that there are still open ends that need to be tied together in future work. It also literally taught me that knowledge creation in science is a continuous flow. And—although it may be frustrating from time to time—it is simply a great pleasure to be a part of it.

Without the support of many people this dissertation probably would not have come that far. In first place, I want to thank my doctoral supervisor Prof. Dr. Helmut Karl for his continuous support over the last years. Moreover, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Manfred Lösch and Prof. Dr. Christoph M. Schmidt for their careful guidance and advice on how to handle empirical problems and improve this work. I am also grateful for valuable comments from Prof. Dr. Jesus Mur and Prof. Dr. Jean Paelinck, whose work in spatial econometrics inspired me to do own research in the field. And, of course, I would like to thank my co-authors Björn Alecke, Janina Reinkowski and Gerhard Untiedt for discussing research ideas, getting problems solved and my time schedule organized. Thanks so much, it was a pleasure to work with you and I hope we continue to do so. My colleagues at the RWI, Alfredo Paloyo and Arndt Reichert, were a great support as well—both in proof-reading earlier drafts and giving me an excellent preparation for my final dissertation defense. Moreover, I would like to thank Philipp Breidenbach, Rosemarie Gülker, Saskia Schmidt, Joel Stiebale, Matthias Vorell, Simeon Vosen and various colleagues at national and international conferences for their relevant feedback and advice. I also acknowledge financial support from the Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst e.V., which helped me to conduct large parts of the research presented in this book.

Finally, there is my family. For sure, without their support I would not have made it. My wife Karla and my parents supported me so much throughout all the ups and downs over the last years. I am incredibly happy about this. My kids Anna Luisa and Jonathan helped me to stay with both feet solid on the ground and were a source of joy and happiness, when I needed new inspiration for my work. I dedicate this book to them.

Essen, Germany

Timo Mitze

Empirical Modelling in Regional Science
Towards a Global Time–Space–Structural Analysis

Mitze, T.

2012, XIII, 339 p. 74 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-22900-8