

Preface

We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep.

William Shakespeare

This book is a modified version of my Ph.D. thesis entitled “The Regression of an Equitable Market Economy”. Although it was not originally designed as a short monograph as such, I hope that the reader will find the following individual chapters of this book understandable without the need to consult the wider work of my dissertation projects which embeds this little book. I have also made an effort to try to write this book in a way which will hopefully be insightful not only for those well familiar both with regression techniques and the analysis of inequality but also to those who have not yet worked extensively on either or both of these topics. As such, I have tried to refrain from burdening the text with an extensive number of formulae and have tried to limit their use as far as possible. In their place, I have tried to describe the underlying ideas in an intuitive manner so that also people without an extensive affinity for the parsimonious and concise nature of mathematical expression will get the gist of the matters discussed in this book. On the other hand, readers more familiar with the basics described in this book will hopefully also find some food for new thought and the necessary references for further in-depth study of the matters discussed in this book.

During the work on this book, which effectively constitutes a five-year dissertation project, I have been very fortunate to get the chance to work, laugh and live with many great people. Although all these people deserve more words of thanks than I could possibly squeeze in this preface, I need to briefly thank some selected people in particular.

First, I need to thank my three dissertation supervisors and academic mentors: Thomas Kneib, Stephan Klasen and Jan-Otmar Hesse. Without their intelligent advice and friendly support, this book would not have come to be.

In addition, I need to thank everyone from the chairs of statistics and econometrics at the University of Göttingen. They are the greatest working group I know and have contributed to the writing of this book in many ways. From the members of this group, I owe a special thanks to Hauke Thaden and Simone Maxand for proofreading the whole manuscript presented here.

I am also grateful to all my co-authors for their collaboration on the various research projects that underlie this book. In particular, I would like to thank Roland Langrock who was pivotal for the research on state space models and Nadja Klein who is the never tiring driving force behind the distributional regression projects that lie at our chair which are at the heart of this dissertation project.

Last but not least I would like to thank my family, especially my wife Katharina who has endured these sometimes trying last few months with me. I promise you that I will have more time for you and our little growing family in the future.

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