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### Values, culture, and national identity in economics

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# Values, culture, and national identity in economics

*Perspectives on the relation between  
the individual and the collective*

Juliette R. de Wit

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university of  
 groningen

# Values, culture, and national identity in economics

*Perspectives on the relation between the individual and the collective*

**PhD thesis**

to obtain the degree of PhD at the  
 University of Groningen  
 on the authority of the  
 Rector Magnificus Prof. C. Wijmenga  
 and in accordance with the decision by the College of Deans.

This thesis will be defended in public on

Thursday 2 December 2021 at 16:15 hours

By

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Solving puzzles ran like a thread through my years at the University of Groningen. It was probably one of the main reasons to pursue this PhD: a job in which you can think and reflect on academic puzzles sounded like a dream come true!

Having a background in economics and philosophy, and an interest that moved beyond these two disciplines, I also faced my own personal puzzle: Was I an economist *or* philosopher? Where did I fit in? Already in 2014 I wrote in my application letter to the research master in Economics at the University of Groningen: “Who would I really like to become: a philosopher, an economist, or a combination of the two?” Even though I wanted to pursue my studies in economics, I was also convinced that the “interdisciplinary point of view will be most fruitful in my opinion”. At that time, I did not realize I had already solved my puzzle: after five years of research, it would indeed be the conclusion of my thesis (check the last sentence on page 189).

Many people contributed to a solution to the puzzles—academic and otherwise—I encountered during my PhD. I would like to thank several people in particular.

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*Juliette*  
*Meppel, October 2021*





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