Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisors Prof. dr. D. J. de Ruyter and Prof. dr. J. Steutel for their support, and stimulating conversations through the years. They believed that a psychologist could think and write like a philosopher and in so doing become one. Their encouragement and friendship along with that of Prof. dr. Ben Spiecker, their distinguished colleague, are precious to me and my gratitude to all three extends beyond thanks for their contribution to the work presented here.

Similarly, I wish to thank the distinguished members of the review committee: namely, Prof.dr. Michael Hand of Birmingham University, Prof.dr. Ine Vanwesenbeeck of Utrecht University, Prof.dr. Michael Merry of University of Amsterdam, dr. Henny Bos also of University of Amsterdam, and dr. Anders Schinkel of VU University Amsterdam. I thank them in advance for their learned questions and remarks and look forward to continued interesting conversations with them all.