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### In the absence of a gold standard

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*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*

2010

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Noordhof, A. (2010). *In the absence of a gold standard*. s.n.

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Drukker : Boxpress BV - Oisterwijk  
Vormgever & omslag : Wytse Noordhof - Dieren  
ISBN : 978-90-367-4180-4 (druk)  
978-90-367-4179-8 (digitaal)

RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

# In the Absence of a Gold Standard

## **Proefschrift**

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de  
Medische Wetenschappen  
aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen  
op gezag van de  
Rector Magnificus, dr. F. Zwarts,  
in het openbaar te verdedigen op  
woensdag 3 februari 2010  
om 13.15 uur

door

Arjen Noordhof  
geboren op 12 april 1980  
te Rheden

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How pathetically scanty my self-knowledge is  
compared with, say, my knowledge of my room.  
There is no such thing as observation of the  
inner world, as there is of the outer world.

- *Franz Kafka*

The research presented in this thesis is part of the TRacking Adolescents' Individual Lives Survey (TRAILS). Participating centers of TRAILS include various departments of the University Medical Center and University of Groningen, the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, the University of Utrecht, the Radboud Medical Center Nijmegen, and the Trimbos Institute, all in the Netherlands. Principal investigators are prof. dr. J. Ormel (University Medical Center Groningen) and prof. dr. F.C. Verhulst (Erasmus University Medical Center). TRAILS has been financially supported by various grants from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research NWO (Medical Research Council program grant GB-MW 940-38-011; ZonMW Brainpower grant 100-001-004; ZonMw Risk Behavior and Dependence grants 60-60600-98-018 and 60-60600-97-118; ZonMw Culture and Health grant 261-98-710; Social Sciences Council medium-sized investment grants GB-MaGW 480-01-006 and GB-MaGW 480-07-001; Social Sciences Council project grants GB-MaGW 457-03-018, GB-MaGW 452-04-314, an GB-MaGW 452-06-004; NWO large-sized investment grant 175.010.2003.005); the Sophia Foundation for Medical Research (projects 301 and 393), the Dutch Ministry of Justice (WODC), and the participating universities. I am grateful to all adolescents, their parents and teachers who participated in this research and to everyone who worked on this project and made it possible.

I want to thank the following institutions for contributing to the printing costs of this thesis: The graduate school for Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN), the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), and the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RuG).



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