Essays on welfare benefits, employment, and crime
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Marco Theodorus Cornelis Stam was born in Langedijk, the Netherlands on the 23\textsuperscript{rd} of July, 1990. After obtaining a BSc degree in Criminology, he received a MSc degree in Investigative Criminology (\textit{cum laude}) and the Research Track Criminology (\textit{cum laude}) from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His MSc thesis, written during an internship at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, was presented and published at the Benelux Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

In 2016, Marco became a PhD candidate at the Department of Economics and the Department of Criminology at Leiden University. His doctoral research was part of the Reform of Social Legislation and Criminal Justice: Legitimacy, Accountability and Effectivity research programs, and received financial support from the Gak institute. The resulting papers were presented at various international conferences, including the annual meetings of the \textit{EALE}, \textit{ESPE} and \textit{ASC}. Policy relevant work was presented at the Netherlands Economists Day and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Besides his doctoral research, Marco taught several courses in criminology and economics. He also received formal education in Econometrics and Applied Microeconometrics at the Tinbergen Institute. During the finalization of his PhD dissertation, he participated as a researcher in the Leiden University project of \textit{Punishment: What Works?} and the Centre for BOLD Cities project of \textit{Reintegration in BOLD Cities}, funded by the Gratama foundation and the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development, respectively. In addition to research and teaching, he contributed to data source integration into a national data infrastructure for academic research, through his affiliation as Data Scout at \textit{ODISSEI}. 