This book represents a culmination of my Ph.D. research conducted at the Ruhr Graduate School in Economics and at the University of Duisburg-Essen from October 2005 to April 2008. Many people have generously contributed their time, experience and resources towards the success of this dissertation.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Volker Clausen, a great supervisor, who has always encouraged my work. It has been a pleasure to work under his excellent guidance. His steady engagement and support have provided me the kind of working environment that has proved to be instrumental in writing this thesis. I am also grateful to my second supervisor, Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Rutherford, who has inspired my work from the beginning. This thesis would definitely not have been possible without his innumerable and fundamental contributions in the area of computational economics. As a co-author of Chapter 2 of this thesis, he was a pleasure to collaborate with and learn from.

Many additional people have been a source of encouragement, providing helpful conversation, thoughtful advice and valuable feedback. Thanks go to my fellow doctoral students at the Ruhr Graduate School in Economics, and my colleagues at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude for the efforts of my teachers in the doctoral program of the Ruhr Graduate School in Economics which both shaped my research and helped me become a more versatile economist. I gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Ruhr Graduate School in Economics and the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach Foundation throughout a research grant and the funding of several presentations at international conferences.

Finally, I cannot finish without saying how grateful I am to my family and my friends for all their support during the years of my dissertation. I am deeply indebted to my parents for their love and dedication during all stages of my life which has given me the opportunity to come so far in the first place. To them I dedicate this thesis. Last but not least, I am sincerely thankful to my wife Angelika for her unfailing patience and cheerful support throughout which made all this possible.

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
February 2009

Sebastian Rausch
Macroeconomic Consequences of Demographic Change
Modeling Issues and Applications
Rausch, S.
2009, XV, 135 p. 29 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-642-00145-1