

# Propositions

attached to the thesis

## Improving Access to Healthcare in Underserved Rural Areas

LISANNE VAN RIJN

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 13.00 hrs

## I

To overcome challenges of access to healthcare in rural areas, non-traditional healthcare delivery models are essential, and there is significant potential in studying these approaches to improve health outcomes.

*(This thesis)*

## II

A decentralized decision-making approach for outreach site reassignment provides a feasible and effective alternative to centralized decision-making when adequately designed.

*(Chapter 2)*

## III

Simple decentralized decision rules for outreach site reassignment only lead to a slight loss of effectiveness compared to optimal decentralized decision-making.

*(Chapter 2)*

## IV

Identifying drivers of the need for outreach contraceptive implant removal services and operational decisions that can help meet this need helps attain more equitable and inclusive contraceptive implant service provisioning.

*(Chapter 3)*

## V

Both stock-hubs and cashflow games have the potential to address cash constraints for community health entrepreneurs, but their effectiveness depends on context-specific factors, such as accessibility, and the characteristics and performance of the entrepreneurs.

*(Chapter 4)*

## VI

Restrictions in accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare services pose a serious threat to public health, as these services are crucial for safeguarding reproductive and child health, preventing disease, and enabling individuals to make informed reproductive health choices.

## VII

Collaborative research with practitioners strengthens the societal relevance of a PhD project, but the time investment and the chance of practitioners disengaging from the project put the timely completion of the PhD project at risk.

## VIII

PhD candidates face a critical choice between depth and breadth, focusing on cohesive studies or methodological diversity—yet guidance on which approach best serves (academic) career goals is often lacking.

## IX

Efforts to promote gender diversity in academia often place the burden of driving institutional change on women, which inadvertently creates additional pressures that can hinder their career progression and well-being.

## X

The PhD trajectory typically has few clear milestones, making it essential to celebrate small wins to maintain motivation and well-being.

## XI

There is a positive correlation between the number of cats owned and the length of the PhD program.