

University of Groningen

Subjective Well-Being in a Spatial Context

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DOI:
[10.33612/diss.133465113](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.133465113)

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2020

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

Citation for published version (APA):

Rijnks, R. (2020). *Subjective Well-Being in a Spatial Context*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen. <https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.133465113>

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Acknowledgements

This final section of my thesis has been a long time coming and I'm delighted to finally be finishing this book. More importantly, however, I am very happy to have the opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic time I spent at the University of Groningen and some of the people that were instrumental in making this so memorable. When I was appointed to the project I could not have been happier with the supervisory team that came with it, as they represent the core tenets of what is great about regional science.

Philip, it has been fantastic working with you over the past years. Meetings with you are always inspirational, and the breadth and depth of your knowledge ensure there is always a multitude of angles from which we can approach any topic. On top of that, you're always looking to make things possible, such as visiting positions, conference visits, and so on. My time at the faculty would not have been anywhere near as fruitful or enjoyable were it not for your support. Beyond the practicalities, you were unwaveringly positive and enthusiastic in our interactions. Any time we had a meeting I would come away with new ideas and, more importantly, renewed energy to work on these topics. Thank you very much for all the support during the past seven years.

Dirk, we go back a little bit longer still. We started working together in 2010 on the Veenkoloniën project, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of our collaborations since. I particularly like your extremely informal style of communication, honesty, and directness. Thanks to you, I started working at the faculty, got a second position in Economic Geography, and had a much smoother PhD process than what might otherwise have been. In the past two years we have continued working together on a number of different topics, and your trademark style has made these very enjoyable, not in the least owing to the fact that you tend to make proceedings fun and productive, rather than just productive.

Sierdjan, our collaborations probably go back the furthest, as you supervised my Bachelor thesis as well. I was very happy to have you as my daily supervisor. Over the past years, you've always been available and quick to respond, you have a knack of getting at the core of any idea or text immediately, and you really help with separating the important from the less important when we talk about the project. You encouraged

(or possibly only indulged) my interest in the research methods, and our regular chats really sped things along for me and helped me understand the core of the regional science arguments in this project. Most importantly, you're fun to work with. Every lunch break is punctuated with at least a couple of jokes and puns, some so obscure it takes the rest of us weeks to figure them out.

Beyond my supervisory team, I enjoyed working alongside a large number of people in the faculty, in regional science more generally, and beyond. First of all, my paran-impfs: Koen and Gwenda. I don't think we've left one aspect of academic life, social sciences, geography, and planning intact during our lunch or coffee break conversations. Whenever something happens, good or bad, it's always great just to touch base with you guys briefly. Then there's Dani, of course, who's one year visit put the completion of my project back by at least as much. Not a day went by without you trying to organize something or other, in or out of work, usually involving the great friends from the Gwendor group (Suzan, Anna, Marten). My regular coffee walks with Dimitris, Luise, and Thanasis were always very enjoyable and I look forward to keeping those up when I visit Zernike. Or maybe we can all go and visit Dimitris' home town again... [ahum attend a scientific conference on macro-economics and finance]... Constanza, Karina, Bernal, and Alejandro, turned into great friends outside of work, or at least indulged my stone-coal-Spanish. Finally, my coffee walks with Alicia deserve special mention; we covered a lot of distance, and a lot of topics as well, during our campus explorations.

My time at the faculty was, however, not all coffee walks and lunch breaks. Over the seven years here I worked with many people. Aside from those already mentioned: Arjen, we worked on a number of projects, both before and after I started my PhD. It's been great fun working with you, and I think I've learned (or at least seen) a lot about how to run projects, find policy applications for results, and how to survive chaotic meetings. It was great working with Viktor on those projects as well, having your encyclopaedic knowledge of statistics on standby was great, the occasional witty delivery of the advice a happy bonus. Sanne, I enjoyed working with you on the poverty project. I think we had a lot of fun trying to find overlap between your approach to research and my own. I look forward to writing those papers with you. For other projects I worked with Frans, Michiel, Vassilis, Inge, and Lourens, and I fondly remember working with all of you. Beyond Spatial Sciences, I really enjoyed and continue to enjoy working with Gerjan and Louise at the UMCG. Finally, I would like to reserve a special mention for Jouke. A common thread through all these projects and activities is that they would not have been anywhere near as fun or successful without the support from the department and the general inclusive nature of all the social and professional activities. I would highly recommend EG based on my experiences to anyone, and I am very happy to

have been with this group for so long.

Beyond that, there's been pretty large number of great office mates over the years. In counter-chronological order: Daniel and Anna in the poverty-room, Fikri, Titisari, Dylan and Fieke in the chatty corner-office, Mark and Xiaolong in the real estate office, Rixt and Norah when I was desk-hopping, and Hans and Dennis from the ground floor. I really enjoyed my time with all of you. My UCF-colleagues, the three-J's, were not quite office mates, but we did share offices in Groningen or Leeuwarden, and I enjoyed hanging out with you a lot. On that note, I'm very grateful towards the Campus Fryslân for their help and assistance throughout the project, with a special mention for Githe and her enthusiasm for all things UCF and Stefan from Stenden, who did a great job of hosting us over there. Finally, this project was part of the Waddenacademy, and through Klaas Deen they provided a lot of support when needed. I was welcomed as a visiting PhD in Maynooth, and I can't thank Chris and Martin enough for their support while I was there (and before... and after). Without them, quite a lot of the R-stuff would have been beyond me. This has made a fundamental difference to the way I work, and what I enjoy about work. Finally, on the professional front, there's my home-away-from-home, the group at the RSAI-BIS. Heike introduced me to these conferences and I've been very fortunate to be able meet such great people as Graham, Karyn, Geoff, Özge, Maria, Vassilis, Frank, Justin, and Declan, and I'm very much looking forward to working more closely with this group in the future.

Outside of the office and work, plenty of people deserve a mention. Danielle and Dania were very effective at providing a clear distinction between work and free time. The Leukste Groep made for endless distractions, such as the twice-annual-ish Leukste Weekenden, en Leukste New Year's parties etc. Thanks to my housemate James I'm now an accomplished BBQ tong-master, meat-drier, and beer brewer, and I know the colour of burning (excess) floorboards (and that these do *not* make for good coal to cook food on). Those years made you and Maggie as close to family as you can get. On the family front, Klaas, Ninja, and Olivier, and Hans and Tulika, it's been great going through this whole process and having you guys to chat to. I look forward to having a bit more free time to hang out and go on trips now that this is all over. Mum, you've been a great support for me throughout this whole process. On a very practical side you've always helped with detailed English corrections and suggestions. More generally, you've been very supportive of the whole process, patiently listened to endless stories about my papers, and shared my enthusiasm if something nice happened or if I had been on a cool trip. Then there's the in-laws: Catrien, Gunar, Inge and Kees. It's been superb getting to know you guys over the course of the last seven years. I now know much more about bamboo and Irish Terriers than I could possibly need. The Australia

trip with Inge and Kees, and Tracks, Kester, Matt, Damo, and Cait was an absolute highlight, even though that camper-van taught me more about the value of floor-area than chapter 5 ever could.

Finally, the start of this project almost perfectly coincided with Heike and I getting together. Although we had worked in the same faculty for three years by then, we are the very definition of a spatial interaction model: only when I moved to the same floor as you did we start hanging out properly. Since then, we've come a long way from figuring out how to keep our dating under wraps while sharing an ERSA hotel room on the same corridor as all our colleagues. We've had some amazing adventures together, with all the conferences, holidays, motorbike adventures, camper-adventures, home-buying adventures, and so on. Most importantly, I've had enormous support from you, when the models didn't work out, the computer overheated, the project ran a little long, or when things not related to work got in the way. And when things did go well you were the first to cheer me on: you were fantastic. Thanks schatje :-).

Groningen, August 2020