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Subjective Well-Being in a Spatial Context

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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.

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(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.

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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.

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