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Rethinking the culture-economy dialectic

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EPILOGUE

Books are deceptive things. They seem to convey a message of finality, seem to be end products. In science, however, there is no finality and there are no end products. Hence, the book you are holding in your hands right now – like all others – is merely the reflection of an intermediate stage in an ongoing research effort. Nevertheless, to the writer, a book *does* represent finality, maybe not the final answer to a research question or even *his* final answer, but the final result of a (specific) period of reading, thinking, testing, writing, and so forth. In all this reading, thinking, testing, writing, and so forth, in other words: in doing research, the writer is usually in some way influenced and/or supported by colleagues and friends. Ultimately, books are rarely the products of single isolated individuals. Numerous people contributed to the realisation of this particular book. This epilogue is intended to acknowledge to them.

As a consequence of the scope and disciplinary breadth of this book, nearly everyone I met – both scientists and laymen – had something to say about it. Everyone seemed to have favourites (scholars, theories, ideas) who – so I was told – had to be included. Although I was – and still am – very grateful for these suggestions, it was impossible to incorporate all of them; the book would have been at least three times as bulky as it is now. Of the many theories and scholars suggested, I included only those who added – in my opinion – original ideas to the culture - economy dialectic.

More specifically, I must thank all those who took the effort to answer the questions I e-mailed to them, although they usually had to admit that they had no idea what the answer actually could be.

In particular, I owe thanks to Jelle Bezemer for his contribution to subsection 2.4.2. For reading drafts of chapter 2 and commenting upon them, I must thank Gabor Péli, Martin van Hees and Erik Krabbe. Theo Kuipers, Henk Voogd and Greg Ashworth were kind enough to read the whole manuscript and offered some valuable suggestions for final improvements.

Of course, most of all, I need to thank my *promotores*, René Boomkens and especially Piet Pellenbarg. Isaac Newton once wrote: 'if I have seen further it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants' (in a letter to Robert Hooke, February 5, 1675). I do not wish to compare myself to Newton, neither do I suggest I actually have 'seen further'. That is not for me to say. I merely wish to say that Piet has been my *giant*. For his support, his intellectual openness and his wit, he has my eternal gratitude.

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Furthermore, I owe thanks to Irene Kromhout for her amazing cover design, to Audrey Debije for English correcting (although I did not follow up on all of her suggestions), and to the support staff of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences in Groningen for making the research that resulted in this book possible.

There is one more person I need to thank for her unconditional and loving support: Charissa Feiken. Without her none of this would have been possible. I am forever indebted to her. She knows.

The Hague, May 2005

