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## Networks of Functional Metal Oxides Towards Neuromorphic Materials

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While it's my name on the cover of this thesis, I couldn't have achieved all of this without the help and support of some people (actually, it's quite a list) that are very important and dear to me. Hopefully, I can manage to convey my gratitude to you properly. I'm trying to find all the right words, and by the time you read this, it will have been rewritten many times to get it right.

First and foremost, Beatriz - you are the best supervisor I (and I think anyone) could wish for! You are incredibly supportive, caring, driven, motivated, and motivating. After our meetings, I always left your office super excited and with renewed motivation to tackle any issue that was at hand. You always managed to lift my spirits and you always saw the potential in my project, even when I didn't see it myself anymore. You are strict but in a good way, as in you want us to do well and reflect well on the group, but at the same time, you leave us really free. You preach a proper work-life balance (and specifically tell us that we shouldn't take you as an example because you work too much. But you really like it, so it's okay (*right?*)), and tell us that the minimum summer holiday of two consecutive weeks is really not long enough to recharge, so please take more holidays! I truly learned a lot from you, and I'm grateful for the opportunity you gave me to continue in your group for a PhD. There aren't enough words (or at least in a way I know how to put on paper) to express my gratitude and admiration for you.

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celebrated, and chatted each other's ears off. Also, we babysit each other's cats. It's really great to have someone like you as a friend. You are even more organized in planning than I am, and sometimes I feel very disorganized compared to you. It's really nice that we're finishing at about the same time; we both figure out how to do things and share it, so we both sort of only have to do half of the administrative figuring out for the defense. You are a great example with your enthusiasm for science and science communication. I'm still hoping you'll send an open application to 'Het Klokhuis' cause you would be perfect for the job! By the way, your brownies and other bakes are heavenly. Thank you for being my paranymph ♡ I'm looking forward to returning the favor in a few months time. You have been there all along the way and you have been (and still are) a great friend and support, I know I can always count on you (and my cats have proven that that is indeed the case!).

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Now the seemingly endless list of (ex) group members. It's a strange thing that the group you enter is not the one you leave. It's something I don't like to think about, but writing this section allows for reminiscing. So first, the (to me) OG's of the group I joined during my bachelor and masters project: Machteld - you will forever be an example of someone who's extremely dedicated to their work and manages to work so efficiently that you can also have a good work-life balance. You showed me the importance of joining for lunch and coffee breaks, both for the social aspect and for random science discussions. Mart - you are extremely hardworking and dedicated to any project you start. I really admire your passion

and dedication to your work. You are also one of the most selfless people I know: you will always make time to help someone with lab or experimental issues, especially if they are related to electrical measurements. You taught me a lot during my time in the group, starting during my master's project, where you supervised me, and later during my PhD. You were always there for any questions I had about XRD, the Cypher, or the Keithley. Silang - We shared two offices and while it took me some time to really get to know you, I was lucky enough to find out that you are an amazing person! You have a great sense of humor and I admire your dedication to your work, for example: you would give your Steam account details to a friend, to prevent yourself from playing video games. Your creativity in your research and free time are amazing. Jordi - my DM, my apologies for having to put up with my fantastic ability to role-play. You were the one that made me realize that presentations don't always have to be 100% serious but should contain a healthy dose of (some form of) humor. It has been great sharing an office with you and nerding over video games and later D&D.

During this initial time, my fond memories with Silvia and Joshua start. Joshua - we were reunited after different study timings and master directions; you were doing your master project while I was working on my bachelor project. I admire your enthusiasm for your research and the way you present your work. I still cannot get over how good your cakes and pies were! It was always a treat when you brought your home-baked goods to the lab. Thank you for asking me to be your paranymph, it was a great honor. Good luck in your future scientific endeavors, I hope you'll be a professor someday soon. Silvia - sharing the student office marked the start of a great friendship that eventually extended to workout buddies and D&D nerdings. You too are extremely dedicated to your work and I admire your dedication to anything you do. Next is Cynthia - you also are extremely hardworking, dedicated, and passionate about science. You were very inspirational during the start of my PhD. I tried to soak up as much of your knowledge on electrical measurements and memristors as I could. Hong - you are such a sweet and kind person and I'm happy I got to know you. We shared a lot of laughs and great food and I'm happy that you found a nice position in China. I hope we can stay in touch, even though the communication channels are limited.

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Pim, for all your help, laughs and making my time in the group so much fun.

If you're lucky, you only occupy one office during your stay in the group, that wasn't the case for me and I moved a few times (though I think Jordi is still the record holder), but the silver linings are that I was able to share an office with many people listed before. In the office of the extremes (aka the shitty student office): Annemarie, Silvia, Joshua, Arjan, and Laura; in my first PhD office: Machteld, Silang, Liany, and Yingfen; in my second PhD office (this was a busy one): Jordi, Silang, Cynthia, Pavan, Johanna, Olga, Foelke, Richa, and Pim); and last, but not least 'my' corona office: Beatriz and Ruben.

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Femke - your gymnastics classes are awesome! I also really admire your dedication to training. And all those squats are paying off, you're building some proper *beens*. Celina - you are a great coach and colleague, with a good sense of humor. Kristan - my Saturday coaching buddy. 10/10 times if you make a joke, I'll bite. I'd like to think I'm getting better at not doing that, but I don't think that's actually true. Robin - while you're no longer at Allround, you were a great influence when I just started out. You were the one (together with Pepijn) that managed to convince me that rest days are actually useful and important, and I'm forever grateful for that! Emma - you are an inspiration! You're so strong and dedicated and you are such a nice and down-to-earth person. You push everyone around you to get better. Yannic - next to being a great coach, you're also a great teacher. You really helped me during the internal coaching learning trajectory. And whenever I have a coaching (or training) related question, you're there to help. I wish you all the best for starting your own box and while it's really sad to see you go, I'm sure you're going to do great!

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TLDR thanks everyone, I couldn't have done it without you.

Sanne Berg  
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