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## Between Welfare and Farewell

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# Acknowledgements

When growing up, I always dreamt of becoming a writer. Only twelve years old, I searched the shelves of the public library for the spot of my own first book. Although a dissertation is certainly not the novel I was picturing back then, holding this book in my hands brings me back to those times. The feeling a mixture of sentiment and pride.

In the migration literature, social ties are recognized as one of the most important facilitators of many migration process. No less is true for the daunting journey a PhD trajectory can be. Over the past three years I could count on the support of dear colleagues, friends and family. Although I do not mention each of you by name here, please know that I am very grateful for your encouraging words, practical help and shared moments over a coffee, drink or meal.

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