

File ID 153000
Filename Acknowledgements

SOURCE (OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCE):

Type Dissertation
Title Realistic regeneration : housing contexts and social outcomes of
neighbourhood interventions in Western European cities
Author W.P.C. van Gent
Faculty Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Year 2009
Pages 144
ISBN 978-90-9024672-7

FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS:

<http://dare.uva.nl/record/321554>

Copyright

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use.

Acknowledgements

Pursuing a major professional and personal goal for about three and a half years is not unlike an Olympian enterprise. It requires practical support and good working conditions, but also a sustained level of focus, ambition, and drive.¹ These requirements cannot be attained on one's own. Without the aid of others, this dissertation would not have been possible. While several chapters already acknowledge some people, I would like to take this opportunity to (again) thank those who have been vital to this PhD project.

First, I have to thank the seventy or so regeneration professionals who were all kind and patient enough to endure my tedious questions. They were absolutely fundamental to my understanding.

I wish to thank my *promotor* Sako Musterd for giving me the opportunity to do a PhD in the first place.² Moreover, I appreciate his support, guidance, trust and his kind nature. Furthermore, his knowledge of and insight in the field of urban studies were invaluable. I also own a debt of gratitude to my *co-promotor* Wim Ostendorf. His wit and his critical down-to-earth attitude forced me to be ever more specific in my writings and reasoning. I very much enjoyed the supervisory meetings with the three of us, which were both intellectually stimulating and *gezellig*. I look forward to continue working and writing together in the near future.

In addition to my esteemed *promotores*, other members of the academic community need to be mentioned as well. I would like to thank Ronald van Kempen (Utrecht University), Roger Andersson and Emma Holmqvist (Uppsala University), Peter Lee, Alan Murie, and Rob Rowlands (University of Birmingham), Montserrat Pareja and Montse Simo (University of Barcelona) for taking the time to discuss my cases, for reviewing my work, or for helping me organising my fieldwork abroad. Also, my fieldwork in Catalonia would not have been possible without the enthusiastic assistance of Jordi Ribot Thunnissen.

Several organizational structures provided the necessary conditions to conduct my research. These include the Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (and Gert van der Meer in particular), the Urban Geographies research group, and the Corpovenista/ BSIK Habiforum programme. Also, I want to thank the members of the Corpovenista klankbordgroep (Jiri Anton, Ruud Geelhoed, Jan Kraak, Adriaan Hoogvliet, Harry Platte) for providing comments on my work from the perspective of practice.

In addition to institutional support, AMIDSt provided me with many wonderful colleagues. They contributed to my PhD through discussion and reflection on theory and on doing research, but most of all they provided a good social atmosphere. I am proud to call some of them my friends today. At the risk of forgetting people, I want to mention my roommates Erik, Magali, Willemijn, and Hebe as well as Manuel (also for providing some of the spark for this research project), Rogier, Perry, Ewald, Anna, Els, Amanda, Tineke, Francesca, Albert, Michael, Koen, Thomas, Stan, Iris, both Marco's, Sebastian, Bas, Thea, Inge, Marjolein, and Annika (thanks for providing the musical soundtrack of my PhD!). As members of our little reading group, Joram, Brooke, Edith and Fenne deserve a special mention. Over at the psychology department, I consider Job to be a great colleague and friend.

I wish to thank Willem and Mendel for agreeing to act as my *paranimfen*. In addition to his friendship, I appreciate Willem's comments within the reading group, his inquisitive nature and his taste for discussing anything and everything. I consider Mendel one of the best friends and the greatest roommate I ever had. He significantly added to the enjoyment of coming to the office every day. Also, if I didn't agree with Tom to have a coffee with him one faithful day in 2003, I would have probably never have become an urban geographer.

I would like to express my gratitude to those who are further away from academic life, but had a major influence on my sanity, stability and happiness. These people include my friends, of whom I shall only mention the talented Suus van den Akker, who graciously agreed to do the cover design and lay-out of this book. I wish to thank Femke and the Bax/ Groenhof/ Henkes family for many memorable and dear moments. A special nod goes to Laura for, among other –far more important– things, checking my Dutch summary. Lastly, no language or words can fully express my gratitude and love for Peter, Corry, and Roseline. Without them, I would never have come this far.

August, 2009

1 I have actually discussed this analogy with a professional Olympic athlete and he agreed that there are several similarities.

2 In that vein, I should also thank Eva van Kempen and Willem Salet for allowing a Social Informatics student to participate in a geography/ planning masters programme.