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Nawoord

Het afronden van een promotie-onderzoek is een “mijlpaal”, zoals dat heet. Dat het ooit nog zover heeft mogen komen! Aan mijn educationele loopbaan komt dan nu toch echt een einde. Meer diploma’s vallen er niet te halen. Het zou echter een vergissing zijn te denken dat ik mij de afgelopen jaren in een woestijndorp heb opgesloten met als doel om uiteindelijk een diploma in ontvangst te mogen nemen. Ik ben de afgelopen vier jaar in de gelukkige omstandigheid geweest mij volledig te mogen wijden aan de studie van precies die onderwerpen die ik zelf het meest interessant en relevant vindt. In die zin is dit proefschrift evenzozeer een uitdrukking van mijn persoonlijke interesses als van het gedane onderzoek.

Er is een vrij berucht debat in de psychologie dat het *nature-nurture* debat wordt genoemd. Dit debat draait om de vraag of het gedrag en uiteidelijke succes van individuen voornamelijk afhankelijk is van de kwaliteit van de genen waarmee ze geboren worden, of veeleer afhankelijk is van de opvoeding die ze genoten hebben. Hoe het ook zij, het staat in ieder geval vast dat, als ik er in geslaagd mocht zijn een aardig proefschrift te schrijven, ik dit voornamelijk aan mijn ouders te danken heb. Zij zijn verantwoordelijk voor zowel mijn *nature* als *nurture*. Voor mijn genen durf ik niet te spreken. Wat betreft de *nurture* ben ik er van overtuigd ben dat een open geest, een onbevooroordeelde blik, een gezonde dosis zelfvertrouwen, scepsis, en vooral een onbezwaard gemoed, onontbeerlijk zijn voor het doen van wetenschappelijk onderzoek. Pap, mam, dat bovenal heb ik aan jullie te danken. Over alle steun die ik altijd van jullie heb ontvangen hoef ik dan niet eens te hebben.

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