The politics of entry

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Happy days

Enrico, thank you for so many good moments in Amsterdam and at many conferences abroad, being surrounded by great academics and wonderful friends! When we met I had no passing grade for statistics, no topic for a thesis and no plan for the future. With your help, advice and support I passed statistics and wrote this thesis. Luckily a plan for the future does still not exist. Thank you for having confidence in me and for the freedom!

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Lots of love to my parents who have continuously supported me from Geel, Shanghai, Lake Hopatoong or Leonding...and always created a home to return to during holidays! In my brothers I admire Peter’s independence and practical look on the world and Andre’s flexibility and enthusiasm. Many fun phonecalls with grandma motivated me to be more assertive and thoughtful.

And now some random thoughts about those people that have made my life so much fun over these last few years...!

My first year at Tinbergen Institute would have been even tougher without the help from Jonneke, Freek and Tse-Chun, who always answered the phone. Without Ronald’s help I would not have understood a single page from Mass-Collell. Chen helped me with the homework based on the same book, such that there was time to play football at Erasmus. Dion, thanks for the econometric advice and the male-chauvinist jokes in E4.37. A special thank you to Nora at the Tinbergen Institute and Yolanda at the Finance Group, who have made my life even easier.
Tibor and Draluska took me on an epic journey to Slovakia and invited me countless times to stay overnight, providing a very nice end to a long working day in Amsterdam! It was fun to watch Friends and drink Yoki with Gerard and Feliciana, who made the Vogelstraat a true home. Andrei, let’s keep on sailing together as after many years I still do not get many of your Russian jokes! And Txo, a Palmke to biology, het ballonnetje, and Rapidshare. Annora, Kiu-Yan and Nick, thank you for having me stay at your home in London on all these occasions, it was a pleasure. Due to Razvan and Carmen I now believe that life can be good even when ’married with children’, a real accomplishment. My first ever remark to him was an insult, and now one of my best friends: to Thomas, a great cook and terrible Bridge-player :) Hessel and Martin, thanks for your patience, with me being equally bad at bridge and a far worse cook! Enrico, who plays guitar well, plays Due better and serves the best pasta and wine (after all you did come to Amsterdam for the food and weather, right?). Jerzy, would you like to be my guru dude? Marcel not only organised the tastiest barbecues but also took me on a magnificent trip to Brazil…Saudade…Stephen showed (off) how to ski and taught me to never lose my ’bout de pain’, great fun! Cheers to you Amanda, to your marvelous sense of humor. Luc and Ruxi, where do we meet the next time round, Alsace or Retezat? Worries melt upon Lygia’s warm and enthusiastic greetings every time we meet (the one exception being when you were moving). And Aspasia, I want my money back too:) Liebe Grüße to those making Salzburg such a nice place to live. Sumedha and Kasia, wish you happiness from your special corner in my heart.

Peter, Pieter, Timo and Vincent, there is only one conclusion… ’Poh!’

Hug,

Marcel