The power to collaborate: How judicious use of power accelerates the strategic capacity of regions in the Netherlands

Haran, N.

Citation for published version (APA):
Rigid scientific activity and good fortune are not necessarily contradictory. I was a lucky researcher during the years I worked on this study. My fortune came not only from the favorable conditions and the supporting environment I enjoyed during the research but also from the fact I was led by the wheels of fortune to some unpredicted findings. Findings that brought me unexpected happiness. I'll get to that later.

All throughout this research, I enjoyed excellent guidance from my supervisors, Willem Salet and Maarten Wolsink, to whom I am deeply grateful. Willem and Maarten formed a great duo and skillfully advised and supported me with the research. They challenged, demanded incisiveness and always provided a firm and impartial commentary in a clear, sincere manner.

Thanks should also go to Enrico Gualini who guided me at the first stage of the research. Special appreciations are reserved to Luca Bertolini, Pieter Tordoir, Pieter Terhorst, Jochem de Vries, Stan Majoor and the rest of the “Synergin’ research team who did not spare time and efforts to assist me in sharpening and improving my ideas. Especially I would like to thank Leonie Janssen-Jansen, the coordinator of the team, for her helpful remarks and her encouragement along the years.

The professional and international working environment of the Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and Development Studies (AMIDSt) and the great administrative support led by Geert van der Meer, Barbara Lawa, Marianne van Heelsbergen, Guida Morais e Castro Ermida and Puikang Chan were both very much appreciated from the first day I got into office.

Telling the story of this research would have been impossible without the professional assistance of Enda Murphy who carefully examined early versions of the text and brought linguistic improvements. Assistance in summarizing the research in the Dutch language was given by dear friends and colleagues Hebe Verrest and Michaël Deinema. Els Veldhuizen assisted me with the production of the GIS maps and Karin Pfeffer offered me her assistance in so many matters I wouldn’t know where to start.

I was fortunate to share my hours with exciting colleagues with whom I enjoyed great conversations and good laughs. I would like therefore to express my appreciation to Sebastian Dembski, Marco te Brömmelstroet, Bas Hissink Muller, Thomas Straatemeier and Melika Levelt for offering me their insights, charm and friendship. I would also like to thank Perry, Amanda, Rogier, Anna, Inge, Manuel, Koen and Joram for their companionship and for the electrifying moments experienced while working on our plan B.
Last thanks are reserved for my dear family: to Kata, the woman this research led me to, who always knew how to lift my spirit when heavy research clouds threatened to invade my mind. To Noam, who patiently waited to be born until the moment his father submitted the manuscript. And to my lovely supporting parents who gave me confidence and so often called out: “Yalla, Tigmor Kvar!”

To them this book is dedicated.

Nadav Haran, Amsterdam, October 2009