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### Achieving the desirable nation : abortion and antenatal testing in Colombia : the case of amniocentesis

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## *Acknowledgments*

Doing this research involved an immense amount of energy, strength, and suffering. Being at a maternal-foetal medicine ward – witnessing amniocenteses, cordocenteses, foetal surgeries, emotional support therapy, and medical meetings in which aborted foetuses were screened as full as well as pieced-out bodies – and not having a medical background, represented not only an emotional confrontation but also an academic challenge. Furthermore, it was a challenge making the link between the abovementioned practices and recent abortion de-penalisation under foetal conditions ‘that make life unviable’, and then articulating both issues with ideas of the nation and imagined communities.

Fortunately, I was not alone when facing all these challenges, and many people were crucial in helping me tackle them. Firstly, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my supervisors Stuart Blume and Amade M’Charek for being my guides, providing support, and for always making me go further in my analysis and in the articulation of my ideas. Stuart always gave me the time, the words, and the trust to carry out this study from beginning to end; reading the many versions of this project when it was only a research proposal, and then always being prompt to discuss drafts, versions, and new versions of chapters for this dissertation. Stuart also introduced me to the worlds of Science and Technology Studies (in my Master’s thesis in 2003–2004) and Disability Studies. Above all, however, I want to thank him for showing me that it is possible to make a contribution towards building an inclusive and just society. In a word, I want to thank him for being my mentor. Similarly, I want to thank Amade for accepting to be part of this project, and for her enthusiasm and constant support. She was always open to discuss new ideas whilst also being an avid and critical reader, and pushed me further in my analysis. Amade was invaluable in teaching me to problematise biology and scientific production and to question my own taken for granted assumptions about them. But most importantly, she showed me that strong positions not only sound better, but are stronger if you are careful with the tone used to express them. Both Stuart and Amade shared with me their knowledge and life experiences in an honest, warm, and open way, and I am hugely grateful.

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Writing the dissertation – organising and analysing the information, evaluating the relevance of the different stories I could tell, and struggling with being just and true to the data and to myself – was also a difficult process. Luckily, again, I was not alone and many friends held my hand through the difficult times, whilst being sharp readers of many versions of many chapters. In the Netherlands I want to specially thank Malini Sur for being a true and close friend and support, with whom I was able to discuss for many hours my uncertainties, my feelings, and my choices regarding the dissertation I wanted to write. She also cooked many amazing dinners for me, and made me laugh when I needed it. Thanks to Mariela Planas and Silke Heumann I was able to think and talk in my mother tongue with two fine scholars, whose critical discussions helped me to organise my thoughts. Malini, Silke, and Katharina Paul all provided fruitful comments and memorable times through the many good dinners that we had together, which lightened up my life. Finally, thank you to

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