Global trade & the Dutch hub: understanding variegated forms of embeddedness of international trade in the Netherlands: clothing, flowers, and high-tech products

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The years I’ve been working on and writing this thesis have been very intense and a
great learning experience for me. After all, I’m very glad I’ve finished and can move onto
something else without the feeling that there’s still that big, important, and only with an
enormous-effort achievable-thing hanging in the air, waiting to get permission to land.
Without the help of many people, I believe, this thing in the air would never have
landed in the form of the book lying in front of you. Knowing that it is impossible to
name all the people who have been important in this work, I do want to pay attention to
some of them.

First of all I would like to name Pieter Terhorst, my supervisor, who invited me
to return to the University of Amsterdam for this PhD project. At that moment, I’d just
finished a Masters in Teaching Geography and was looking around for a new challenge,
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“This is a really interesting book, but, well, you shouldn’t read it now, you have to stay
focused’’ I went straight to the library or Boekwinkel\text{ties}.nl to get a copy of the not-to-
read-right-now-book. They’ve never disappointed me. I’ve still not been able to read
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a need for recharging at night time or weekends – but I do admire it and whenever I can
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Melika Levelt
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