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They did it!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many would start this section by arguing how hard it can be to complete a PhD project. To be honest, finishing my dissertation has not been the biggest challenge life presented me with so far. Of course, I have experienced some ups and downs over the past two and a half years. And yes, times of frustration came by and passed on. But this is all part of the deal. I have enjoyed working on my dissertation so much that the good times significantly and substantially outweigh the bad times. One of the key explanatory factors of this positive outcome is the support of a great number of people. In hypothetical conditions in which these people are absent, the PhD project would be a – again significantly and substantially – greater challenge. I may not be able to include all names in my model, but I will now mention those who I would like to thank in particular.

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a few examples of the many ways in which Linda and Claes have contributed to my dissertation, and I thank the both of them for guiding me so well during this project.

Over the past years, I experienced the privilege of being part of the renowned ASCoR family. On an institutional level, ASCoR has provided me with optimal working facilities, research and conference budgets, inspiring lectures, superb methods courses, good coffee, and, albeit a bit less excellent, PowerPoint templates. The role of the environment in which I worked, and the tools provided to me, should not be underestimated. I was spoiled with all intellectual and material privileges provided to me, and I would not have been able to complete my dissertation without these resources.

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Michael Hamelers,
Amsterdam, April 2017.