Urban livelihoods, institutions and inclusive governance in Nairobi: ‘spaces’ and their impacts on quality of life, influence and political rights
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This Ph.D. is rooted in my earlier work with international NGOs and as self-employed on issues concerning the slums of Nairobi between 1994 and 1999. Upon returning to the Netherlands and next to working as an advisor and programme manager with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, I started pursuing my Ph.D. as an external candidate. Little did I know, however, of the ins and outs of such an undertaking. The combination of various employment and its changing contexts often offered a welcome alternation. Sometimes it was not easy and taking time to continuously switch between Kenyan and Dutch realities. Other times it led to mutual strengthening of concepts and the integration of parts of both worlds. But most of all, it gave me the satisfaction of dedication to the lives and times of the people in the slums. Overall, I have been happy to work on ‘it’, although last year’s writing was a real marathon and makes me yearn for a more balanced personal life and new directions.

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