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A PhD project is a long pathway of learning to understand the subject and what one is actually going to do. When thoughts look good on paper that does not automatically mean that they are already fully internalised and understood. In order to get the time to digest what I was doing alternative strategies were needed to stay longer than the scheduled four years at the UvA. Teaching was a good activity to get a feeling of relevance, spending time in a purposeful manner with more or less immediate results. Parental leave was another—more drastic—measure. There are no doubts that it was a good step, but I have my doubts as to whether it paid off in terms of time. Just when these measures appeared to be insufficient, Ed Taverne came along, searching for an assistant editor for a book publication in the framework of the NWO programme Urbanization & Urban Culture. In the meantime, more teaching activities were acquired to chew on the PhD thesis. And despite all these efforts, time pressures made the last steps go quicker all of a sudden: a new NWO project in sight, with a submitted and approved PhD Thesis as a conditio sine qua non, and yet another baby. Here we are!

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ball professors, elaborating on their philosophies (which prove useless the very next day…). It was a quiet, social room or quite a social room.

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