Why does education pay off? Relations between institutional context and the mechanisms by which education pays off in the labor market

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If you want to become a PhD student, reading acknowledgements in dissertations is not the best way to get motivated. Often former doctoral students use this space to write about the relief of finishing, and in between the lines you clearly taste the difficulties they faced during their research. I had a completely different experience: my PhD was anything but a struggle and was extremely fun to do. That the writing of my dissertation went relatively smooth is, however, largely due to others. I would like to use this space to thank them.

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Next to my family and friends, for me that “thing” is Gianna, the love of my life. We met in the first year of our sociology studies and chose different, although related, careers: you educate students, and I study education. Gian, I am grateful for your love and support over the past four years, especially during the time I spent in Ithaca. I look forward to growing old with you.

¹. It must be noted that my mother always thought that I would become a physicist. Mum, I am a quantitative sociologist now, and that is as close to physics as you can get within the broad field of sociology.