Framing Turkey: Identities, public opinion and Turkey's potential accession into the EU

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I ‘grew up’ at the political science department of the University of Amsterdam, where I followed courses from several very inspiring lecturers. Among them was Marijke Mossink, who was the first to plant the idea of a PhD in my head. After spending two years teaching courses at the political science department, I finally decided to try to obtain a PhD-position. Armed with often moral, but sometimes also more substantive support from my colleagues I found a position at ASCoR. Although I did not continue my career at the political science department, I do want to thank Tjitske Akkerman, Jos de Beus, Wouter van der Brug, Philip van Praag, Benno Netelenbos, Boris Slijper and Robert van der Veen for their support.

Coming to the new world of ASCoR, I found a warm welcome in the VICI-project of Claes de Vreese. They say you can get very lonely as a PhD-student, with many hours alone behind your computer, but not within this project. The first one and a half year consisted of intense collaborative data collection effort. This meant I was not sitting alone behind my computer but that I could learn the ins and outs of such a large scale research project by looking at and working with the more experienced members of the project. And also, the loneliness was far away because of the social activities that followed long days of hard work.

Within the project, Claes de Vreese, Joost van Spanje and Rens Vliegenthart were the supervisors of my PhD-project. Being a supervision team with varying expertise, you gave me a wide range of comments and ideas to think about. And although I would thank you for your support at the times that it was necessary, I mainly thank you for the significant reactions on my manuscripts. Your critiques substantially improved my work and if you were satisfied with the result, there was not much left for reviewers to comment on.

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