Intentions to move, residential preferences and mobility behaviour: a longitudinal perspective

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Preface

During my PhD research, I turned out to be an excellent example of how behavioural inconsistencies may arise in one’s individual mobility decision process, from the formation of an intention to move to the actual decision to move or not. In the first years of my research, the realisation of my intention to move was hampered by a variety of factors, such as my hesitation to put my scarce time toward finding a new home. However, in the course of time, the deterioration of the neighbourhood in which I was living, in combination with the long commuting time to my work, pushed me past the threshold level, and I began searching for a home. In a relatively short time, I moved from a social rental home to an owner-occupied home. Not long thereafter, an unfortunate, unanticipated life event triggered me to move unexpectedly, in accordance with the residential mobility theory, to a rental home.

While these events are based on a single case, \( n = 1 \), for this research, I had the opportunity to examine thousands of unique cases to investigate the individual mobility decision process in detail. Obviously, I did not do this all by myself. I had the luxury of having two excellent supervisors standing by my side: Claartje Mulder and Dorien Manting. Working on this dissertation sometimes felt like building an impossible skyscraper, not as an architect sitting neatly behind a drawing board but as a construction worker working at frighteningly high levels. The two of you prevented me from falling and guided me smoothly throughout this process. You have encouraged not only my critical thinking but also my curiosity and joy in doing research. I am grateful for your constructive guidance and support, both inside and outside the boundaries of this research.

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Carola de Groot
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