Acknowledgements

This research was carried out under the auspices of the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), the University of Amsterdam. For financial assistance, I am indebted to the Health Care Reform Project of the Thai-European Cooperation for Health. The grant I received from them enabled me to leave my routine work and concentrate fully on this research. This support is gratefully acknowledged.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Prof. dr. Annemiek Richters, who supervised the direction of this research and offered me many valuable comments and suggestions. Dr. Han ten Brummelhuis closely guided and helped me endlessly in every step of conducting this research. He also taught me how to write in academic English, and assisted in editing my draft manuscript. Dr. Komatra Chuengsatiansup encouraged me to pursue a PhD, and introduced me to the field of medical anthropology. He also offered valuable comments on the Thai historical and social context, as well some Thai concepts regarding health and illness.

Special thanks are due to the members of the Doctorate Committee: Prof. dr. Sjaak van der Geest, Prof. dr. S.E. Wieringa, Prof. dr. Harmen Beukers, and Dr. Maarten Bode, all of whom generously read the manuscript and offered their feedback.

To the following local healers, who were key informants in my research, I would like to express my indebtedness: Mo Boon Uppanan, Mo Somsak Kantimun, Mo Pinkaew Tannuan, Mo Thatchai Thananchai, Mo Som Thipyom, and Mo Boonchu Chanbut.

I am in the greatest debt to the persons with HIV/AIDS whose names I cannot mention in this book in order to protect their anonymity. They gave me the opportunity to learn from their valuable life experiences, especially those in which they suffered from AIDS-related stigma.

I owe many thanks to my colleagues and friends who helped me when I conducted my fieldwork in Chiang Mai, among them especially Mr. Wiroj Kuntasuk, Dr. Malee Siththikriengkrai, and other friends in the Network of Lanna Health Wisdom.

I would like to thank Dr. Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Prof. dr. Maitree Suttajit, Dr. Yingyong Taoprasert, and Dr. Surapot Wongyai for their opinions and support.

I am grateful for the different forms of assistance offered by all of my colleagues at the Society and Health Institute, Thailand. I also want to thank Mr. Disathat Rojanalak for editing the English of my eight month paper. Finally, I appreciate highly the efforts of Zoe Goldstein in editing the English of the final manuscript.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family and my wife for the crucial support that they have provided throughout.