Acknowledgements

During my PhD-trajectory there have been many people who have offered support, counsel or encouragement to me. These things have brightened and lightened a journey that sometimes tested my confidence and perseverance. So a warm thank you goes out to all of you. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to several people in particular. First of all I would like to thank my supervisors, Robert Kloosterman and Jan Rath. They guided me throughout my PhD-trajectory with an overall sense of trust and continuous support. Robert, I appreciate your honesty and sense of humour. You have always been straightforward in your criticism but at the same time you installed great trust in my problem-solving abilities. Thank you for that, and I sincerely hope we can continue to work together in the future. Jan, thank you for organising the monthly PhD-lab meetings and for your meticulous reading of my work, up to the revised and the re-revised versions!

Although I have enjoyed the independence and the freedom that come with pursuing a PhD, I am lucky to have never felt lonely. I need to thank Anne Risselada for that, who was my colleague in the research project for three and a half years. Anne, you have been invaluable as a colleague and I am glad we became such good friends. I miss working with you. I would also like to thank Veronique Schuitjens and Frank van Oort, who worked together with Robert and Jan to get funding for the research project ‘Bedrijvige Wijken in Bedrijvige Steden.’ Thank you for the time and effort you put into making this project a success. I would also like to thank NICIS, Cees-Jan Pen in particular, and the consortium members of the research project at the municipalities of Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Leiden, Utrecht and Zoetermeer who have supported the project.

I would like to thank all my colleagues at the AISSR and especially at the department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies for creating an inspiring and pleasant working environment. A special thanks to my former roommate Iris, and to Wouter, Willem, Caroline, Inge, Sebastian, Mendel, Bas and Koen for chats, laughter and inspiration. I also want to thank Puikang, Marianne, Lisette, Guida and Barbara for their support. Marieke, Yannis, Döske and Danielle, thank you for your interest and support. During the final year of my PhD-trajectory, the AISSR offered me the opportunity to participate in an exchange year with Washington University in St. Louis and the EHESS in Paris. This exchange program has meant a lot for me on a professional and a personal level and I would like to thank Jan-Willem Duyvendak, Karen Kraal, John Bowen and Nicolas Dodier for organising the Transatlantic Forum exchange program.
Finally, I would like to thank Tilko, my family and friends for their trust and support. I am lucky to have you all in my life and thankful for the inspiring discussions and happy distractions from PhD-life.