Subjects of care: Living with overweight in the Netherlands

Vogel, E.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the years, countless people have touched this project in one way or another. This means that even though I take full responsibility for all its faults and imperfections, this dissertation is truly a relational achievement. First of all, I am deeply grateful for the ways in which my informants invited me into their work spaces, homes and lives, willing to share their successes, troubles and vulnerabilities with me. This book would not have existed without their generosity and hospitality. Their insights into the problem of overweight and the practicalities of self-care gave this dissertation substance.

In Annemarie Mol I found the perfect supervisor with whom I could combine my philosophical training with my interest in social scientific methods and questions. Her intellectual curiosity and commitment to keep reinventing herself as a scholar are truly inspiring. Sometimes, when it meant going back to a chapter for the hundredth time, her demands for analytical rigor were hard to swallow. But of course she was always right, and I am very grateful for all her pushes. Annemarie not only invested in this dissertation but also in my development as a scholar, generously opening up her network and resources. Her insistence that we are part of an academic ‘family’ is a welcome antidote to today’s neoliberal university.

Jeannette Pols joined this project halfway, but with twice the enthusiasm. I learned a lot from Jeannette’s ability to let one’s empathy fuel productive analysis. Completely at home in the intricacies of health care, but fresh to the topic of overweight, her comments and difficult questions helped sharpen my last chapters and gave me a lot to think with.

Doing a PhD can be a lonely endeavor. But not for me, since I was fortunate to conduct my research being a part of a larger research project. Who knew that serious scholarship can come with so much laughter! With their particular disciplinary training, national background and colorful character, each member of the ‘Eating Bodies team’ added something unique: Filippo Bertoni brought wits; Rebeca Ibáñez Martín, feminist sensitivity; Sebastian Abrahamsson, dry eloquence; Emily Yates-Doerr, a refusal to settle questions; Cristóbal Bonelli, poetry; Anna Mann, an insistence on the
empirical; Michalis Kontopodis, a curiosity for stories; and Tjitske Holtrop, generosity. Over the years, the team extended into a fluid network, adding Justine Laurent, Oliver Human, Carolina Dominguez, Annelieke Driessen, Hasan Ashraf, and Jeltsje Stobbe. I learned a lot, too, from the team’s various permanent and returning visitors: Emil Holland, Wakana Suzuki, Bodil Just Christensen, Pierre du Plessis and Marianne de Laet.

This wonderful team was often enriched with visitors from around the world, giving rise to numerous inspiring encounters, among them with Hannah Landecker, Elspeth Probyn, John Law, Mette Svendsen, Matei Candea, Antonia Walford, Stefan Ecks, Joseph Dumit, Vibeke Phil, Michael Penkler, Line Hillersdal, Simon Cohn, Carlos Baum and Atsuro Morita. I was able to share my work and learn from the work of others through various meetings, seminars, reading groups, workshops and panels, among which the Walking Seminar, the STS reading club, the Writing Care group, Health, Care & the Body meetings, the AMC Philosophy of Care meetings, the Qualification in Practice series and the (Ir)relevance of Race seminars.

A special thanks goes to all my friends and colleagues in the AISSR who have made the University of Amsterdam feel like home: Stine Grinna, Swasti Mishra, Willemijn Krebbekx, Lex Kuiper, Megan Raschig, Ariane d’Hoop, Carola Tize, Lisette Jong, Ildikó Plajas, Dorothea Dechau, Daniel Guinness, Arsenii Alenichev, Mark Hann, Kristine Krause, Amade M’charek, Victor Toom, Henry Kalter, Retna Hanani, Willy Sier, Lieke Wissink, Anneke Beerkens, Thijs Schut, Marianna Fotiadou, Ryanne Bleumink, Davide Gnes, Basje Bender, Carolina Frossard, Tracian Meikle, Rowan Arundel, Thomas Franssen, Mandy de Wilde, Jesse Hoffman and many others. I am excited to continue working with Mutsumi Karasaki, Gerlieke Veltkamp, Christian Bröer and Gerben Moerman as part of Sarphati Amsterdam.

For administrative support and collegiality I could always count on Muriël Kiesel, Cristina Garofalo and Janus Oomen. For editing and improving the writing of various parts of this dissertation I thank Amal Chatterjee, Mercedes Duff, Carolyn Fisher, David Hymans and Yvonne Brink.

During this PhD project I was fortunate to be able to spend 5 months as a guest in the Anthropology department of MIT, allowing me to be in the midst of the intellectual jazz of the world’s two best universities. My gratitude
goes to all the staff, but in particular to Heather Paxson, for intellectual support, and Stefan Helmreich, for letting me audit his wonderful Social Theory course. I learned a lot from the HASTS Program Seminar and the STS circle at Harvard, hosted by Sheila Jasanoff. In addition, for great discussions and lots of fun I thank Peter and Jamie Oviatt, Jia Hui Lee, Luisa Reis de Castro, Claire Webb, Beth Semel, Richard Fadok and others. I also thank Lotte Holm for hosting me for a few weeks in the Institute of Food and Resource Economics at the University of Copenhagen and Bodil Just Christensen for continuing conversations on obesity, and for her hospitality and friendship.

Without Maarten Derksen, Trudy Dehue and Hans Harbers I would have never ended up in Amsterdam doing this PhD. I am grateful to them for introducing me to the field of Science and Technology Studies and for enthusing me throughout my studies at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Important, too, was Michiel van der Ree, with whom during our time in Groningen’s philosophy department I eagerly devoured my first STS literature.

During this PhD I learned that sometimes, the best thing one can do for one’s work and one’s sanity is to leave it behind. I thank reading group Stolz for providing regular Dionysian escapes from the office. Michiel van der Ree, Sandrien van Ommen, Matthieu van de Borst, Peter van der Beek, Simone van der Beek-Bouma, Niek Steendam, Marjolein Gielstra and Henri van der Heiden: I am grateful for the delirious and fantastic worlds our books and meetings revealed to me, and for our continuing friendship. To Marloes Prins, Marloes van Putten and all the other volunteers from the PJ den Hartog Stichting: thanks for amazing summers full of cooking, sailing and craziness.

My thanks go to Roos Hagt and Stefan van Staveren, who are family to me. It is wonderful to see us go into different directions but remain as close as ever. Fulvio and Giulietta Colona taught me important lessons on food and care. Grazie mille per la vostra ospitalità, per avermi accolto nella vostra casa e famiglia. Vera and Albert, my siblings, I thank for the joy of growing up together, and for their continuous reminder of how important it is to think outside the box.
For their dedication in organizing the practicalities around this important moment in my life, I thank my paranymphs. Stine Grinna, you have been my partner-in-crime since we started in Amsterdam. I love your self-deprecating sense of humor, and I am so grateful for your patience and kindness with the endless drafts I made you read. Rebeca Ibáñez Martín, thanks for your silly dances in the office and for accompanying me on the study of eating and health. You and Paula have instilled our neighborhood with a sense of home.

I thank my parents, Henrie and Alice, for showing me that in facing fears, doors open; for teaching me to never stop learning; and for the trust that in their eyes, I always succeed. To you I dedicate this thesis. Finally, I thank Francesco Colona – my friend, partner, colleague, table-companion and diving buddy. Even though you were not always nearby, we were always close. I am deeply grateful to have you by my side.