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Madness and the city

Interactions between the mad, their families and urban society in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, 1600-1795

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I started as a PhD candidate a little under four and a half years ago, the finished thesis seemed an endlessly far-away dot on the horizon. But, driven by my ever growing love of digging through the archives and a determination to uncover information about this fascinating, promising and relevant research topic, the years seem to have flown by and that dot on the horizon has finally been reached. Getting to this point was in no way a walk in the park. During this bumpy ride, filled with ups and downs, many people were there to help guide me in my journey and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to those who – in various ways – helped me during this process.

First and foremost, I would like to like to thank both my supervisors, Geert Janssen and Gemma Blok, who have supported, guided and assisted me from the very beginning. Throughout the whole journey, I have been so happy and grateful for your guidance, patience, insights, thought-provoking questions and collaboration. Geert – your attitude of keeping calm and taking academia with a ‘pinch of salt’ has helped me tremendously, just like the occasional check-ins you made at my office and the fact that your door was always open if I was struggling with things and needed a second opinion. Your meticulous reading of my chapters and sharp comments and questions have also greatly improved this manuscript and I thank you so much for that. Gemma – if it were not for you, I probably would not have started this journey into academia: I am so grateful that you stimulated me to write a proposal. Your enthusiasm for this research and great knowledge of the topic have resulted in many brainstorm sessions that inspired me to bring this thesis to the next level and also to keep my spirits up when I felt lost at times. Not only do I value your professional advice and our collaborations in teaching, organizing a symposium and visiting conferences, but I also value your personal counsel: you helped me navigate my way and we celebrated many of the steps (we both have) taken during this period. Therefore Geert and Gemma, to both of you I owe many thanks for all the support and enthusiasm. You have stimulated and helped me to bring this journey to a good end.

The care for the mad was concentrated in a larger community. Likewise, the community of PhD candidates and colleagues from the early modern history department, the Urban History and Medicine and Society research groups, and also people from the research department of the Faculty of Humanities (the grant team in particular) have all shared this journey. In a way, they have also helped and cared

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Amsterdam, March 2019