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### Travelling philosophy : from literature to film

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**Publication date**  
2006

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#### **Citation for published version (APA):**

Biermann, B. C. (2006). *Travelling philosophy : from literature to film*. in eigen beheer.

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## Acknowledgements

As this particular journey has not come to its end, at least not quite yet, I want to make a genuine attempt to avoid sounding like an overpaid actor about to deliver his rambling, syrupy acceptance speech while palming a little golden trophy in some vacuous Los Angeles auditorium. Ok... well... maybe I'll just ramble just a little syrup as I give credit to whom credit is truly due...

First, in spite of myself, it is only by God's grace that I have been able to benefit from the unmerited gift of an education. It is this education that has allowed me to enjoy a more meaningful understanding of the times that I have the privilege not only to witness, but also to help shape.

If I were to live ten more lives, I could not offer enough thanks to my devoted and encouraging parents as well as my remarkably enduring and generous grandmother who all love me unconditionally. Without their sacrifice and support, I would have had neither the time nor the luxury to pursue this most rewarding aspect of the contemplative life. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to Lea, my beautiful wife, who carries with her a love that seemingly knows no boundaries, who understands my self as best as any other can, and sees the good in me even when that light shines most dimly.

I want to thank the University of Amsterdam for welcoming this lucky kid from the U.S. into its prestigious halls, and, in particular, I would like to extend my appreciation to the committee members for their time and sacrifice in this process. I also want to acknowledge ASCA as a bastion of authentic education in a world where the universities have become more concerned with the financial bottom line and professional status than with training scholars to think critically about those things we hold most dear. My PhD work has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I will not soon forget it.

And then there is the amazing Mieke! I know there is only one of her, but there were times that I truly believed she had secretly cloned herself into three or four of the most tireless, dedicated scholars I've ever had the privilege of knowing. After reading the acknowledgements of some of her previous students, it seems that she is truly a rock of consistency. I am so humbled and grateful that she – probably against her better judgment – selected me to mentor and promote. I am indebted to Mieke because she patiently stuck with me and piloted this process with her thoughtful, candid (sometimes painfully!), and selfless leadership. Truly modeling what it means to be a teacher, she never tried to imprint herself upon my work, but rather encouraged me to find my own voice.

I also want to thank Dr. Gage for helping to bring this prisoner out of the cave and shedding some light into those corners of my soul I did not know were still darkened. Dr. Gage's extraordinary insight and honesty has helped me to understand the beauty and hope of the Comedic vision. In addition, I am grateful for Dr. Benton, Jerry Schriver, and Mike Hopkins who all provided invaluable sources of wisdom and insight into a world that had yet to be revealed. Thanks also to all those friends and family who remain unnamed, your lives have impacted me in ways that I cherish with equal measure.

Lastly, I want to thank the six creative souls behind the works that I had the privilege to not only examine, but to also enjoy. Your dedication and talent has provided insight into the human condition that has helped me to better understand my own. And maybe... because of everyone who has impacted my life in such profound ways, I can one day return the favor and enter my own creative gesture into the Great Conversation...

I thank you and love you all –

BCB

