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**Family background and children's schooling outcomes**

de Haan, M.

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## Acknowledgements

Five years ago, when I was studying economics at the University of Amsterdam, I followed a course called "onderzoekspracticum". It was the first course in which I did not have to study a book or lecture notes, but instead I was supposed to do my own empirical research project. I really enjoyed working with a data set, writing and presenting my results and I decided that I wanted to continue doing empirical research and to write a PhD thesis. During the years I learned though that writing a thesis is a lot more challenging than writing a paper for that course. It is a process which comes with ups and downs, but I always enjoyed doing empirical research and I'm happy that I decided to become a PhD-student. Of course this thesis would not be here without the help and support of colleagues, family and friends and I would like to take this opportunity thank them.

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