Mothering the post-industrial city: Family and gender in urban re-generation

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Acknowledgements

When I started working on this dissertation, I wanted to write of the phenomenon of parenting guidance, not necessarily a post-industrial Rotterdam. It was only after my fieldwork period that I decided I should write of Rotterdam and the way it imagines its future. But in a way, it was hardly a surprise: I have always felt affection and fascination for this dynamic place. I hope that I have succeeded in writing with empathy for my home city, its inhabitants, mothers, children, teachers and policy makers, while maintaining a critical stance. Rotterdam already suffers quite enough from Rotterdammers highlighting its faults, adding insult to injury. I will defend this dissertation in Amsterdam, but was inspired for it in Rotterdam and it was written between 010 and 020—both metaphorically and, in fact, on the train. Although Rotterdam’s future is insecure, I would like to be part of it.

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