



University of Groningen

Catalysis and communication in dynamic molecular networks

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Acknowledgements

I arrived to Groningen with an open mind ready to spend a few years learning chemistry as well as another way of life. It was November, and the first weeks in The Netherlands nearly made me change my mind and come back to where I came from. I had my first experience with biking to work during a Dutch winter, when a single trip could include rain, snow and hail, seasoned with a strong wind. I did not have a place to stay so I spent the first month in a bed & breakfast. It was quite hard and I felt lonely and far from home. Fortunately that changed soon. I found a good place to live where I felt comfortable, I started to know people and discovered a charismatic city. Furthermore, the research was interesting and allowed me to learn a lot of things. Overall, I can say that this time in Groningen has been very enriching for my personal and professional development. I am really happy that I made the decision of doing a PhD in the Netherlands and I will always remember this period of my life.

For all this I am very grateful to Sijbren, who trusted me to do research in his group. During my work with him, he has always been encouraging, willing to help by solving any difficulties that arrived and very, very patient. He has been a good example of expertise and efficiency. With him I have learnt to think further, realizing that negative results in research can actually reveal very interesting details. Also, a valuable quality that I have (to some extent) grasped from him is time management; he is an expert on that.

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