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Regional labour market dynamics and the gender employment gap

Noback-Hesseling, Inge

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Preface

The advantage of studying differences between women and men on the Dutch labour market is that you're not likely to get bored; there are so many angles of approach and if it becomes too overwhelming there's always the data to return to. It turned out that for me the option of 'going back to the data' has been a life saver.

This project has not been easy for me, as some of you know, so I am very grateful to be writing these final words. Many people have contributed to this project one way or another and I'd like to take the opportunity of thanking some of you in person.

First of all Jouke, you have been an exceptional supervisor. Your ability to always ask the right question (usually the one thing I don't have an answer to straight away), your enthusiasm as a researcher and your pragmatic approach to dealing with all kinds of issues have been of great value to me. I would not have been able to complete this dissertation without your patience and guidance. And Lourens, I have been really lucky to have you as a daily supervisor. Your enthusiasm and encouragement have had a great impact on me and I look back on our trip to Cambridge with many fond memories. Philip, I am so happy you decided to come to Groningen and I enjoy our morning coffees very much.

Furthermore I'd like to thank Aleid and Karen for your influence on my academic career and of course for your friendship. And Aleid, I really enjoy our trips/endeavors in search of self-development and relaxation and I hope there will be many more adventures in the future. I truly feel that I have been very fortunate with my place of work and I would like to mention some colleagues in particular: Heike, Petra, and Louise for your friendship and putting up with me as a roommate/neighbour; Viktor, Maria, An, and Sierdjan for their tech-support and kindness.

On a more personal note I would like to thank my family and my parents in particular: Anne and Aldert, who have shown incredible support and great interest in my work over the years. Not a conference went by without you wishing me luck with the presentation and I feel truly fortunate to have you as my parents. Thanks to Jurjen, for your keen eye for detail and Miriam for the many interesting discussions. I

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Inge Noback

Oudeschip, August 2011