where emotion meets cognition

studies on executive function

in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
The studies in this thesis were performed at the Department of Psychiatry, University Hospital Groningen and the Department of Psychology, Education and Sociology, Groningen University, The Netherlands. All studies were approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the University Hospital Groningen.

Publication of this dissertation was supported by Eli Lilly Nederland and the Graduate School of Behavioral, Cognitive and Neurosciences.

Cover design & Lay-out: Sander Trooster • sander@trooster.nl
Printed by: Ridderprint Offsetdrukkerij, Ridderkerk

Cover: Graphical representation of the ‘cubic Newton set’, known as a fractal. Fractals are described as any image that is infinitely complex and self-similar at different levels. Self-similar means that parts of it look like the whole. A fractal is complex, but nevertheless it can be described by simple algorithms – which means that beneath most natural rugged objects there is some order. Fractals are kind of a mystery, inhabiting as they do a world halfway between the objective and subjective. These characteristics of fractals remind of the repetitive nature of obsessive-compulsive symptoms.

where emotion meets cognition
studies on executive function
in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

proefschrift

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de
Medische Wetenschappen
aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
op gezag van de
Rector Magnificus, dr. F. Zwarts,
in het openbaar te verdedigen op
woensdag 3 september 2003
om 14.15 uur

door

Maria Margaretha Anna Nielen
geboren op 9 juli 1971
te Laren
Promotor: prof. dr. J.A. den Boer

Beoordelingscommissie: prof. dr. J.M. Bouma  
prof. dr. R. van Dyck  
prof. dr. P.M.G. Emmelkamp