Is citizenship secular?
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Working on a single project for four years is quite a challenge. A clear deadline at the end of an uncultivated, rough landscape through which you have to pave your own way is both stimulating and mentally challenging, to say the least. Luckily, I have not been completely alone during these years. Along the path, many people have guided and accompanied me, and without whom it would have been impossible to complete this journey. A word of thanks to all of you, of whom I can only mention some here.

Firstly, my supervisors and mentors, Arie L. Molendijk en Christoph Jedan. From day one you gave me all the freedom while offering me handles and directions, provided me with loads of ideas, different angles to approach my topic, and inspiring meetings that would often take much longer than planned — which is a good thing, if you ask me! I have truly appreciated your input and enthusiasm over the course of the project, and your everlasting faith in successful completion.

Secondly, the respondents of my empirical studies. Besides the hundreds of people who have been willing to fill in my online survey, and to whom I am grateful, a special word of thanks go to the 18 interviewees. Although I came from a different background, and although I offered nothing but a listening ear, you have been willing to share your stories and ideas with me. It has been an honour to talk to each and every one of you, to learn more about the work that is being carried out by your communities and to be inspired by your stories.

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Renée Wagenvoorde
Assen, July 2015