Health-state valuation using discrete choice models
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Today I am starting to write the acknowledgements sections, and the thought that immediately appears in my head: “I could not even imagine how I would feel when this day happens”. How do all PhD candidates feel when they are at home stretch, while writing the Acknowledgements? Probably, the memories of good and bad moments, exciting or stressful events are popping up. What would you feel: relief, excitement, happiness, worries?

I am writing this section having already moved from the Netherlands to Switzerland. Now sitting towards the lake, I am reflecting on the past 3 years of PhD life in the Netherlands. It is not hard to realize that there were definitely plenty of moments to remember, full of excitement and joy, as well as despair and hard-working. Now, in retrospective, I understand that such moments are worth experiencing. Without downs it is not possible to appreciate ups (then again downs and even higher ups), and being thankful for that.

First of all, I would like to express my thankfulness to my supervisor, Dr. Paul Krabbe. Apart from being my supervisor and leader in science and research, he also became my guide in life (and wine, and music). Thanks for all your support and trust in me. Thanks for giving clear instructions and willingness to help. Thanks for all interesting talks and stories to discuss. Especially, I will always remember the pleasant evening in your house in Zeist with your wife Anna, and colleagues Ruslan and Ahmad. There is such welcoming yet calming atmosphere in your house, surrounded by nature. Not to forget the beautiful music we were listening, and the elegant meal prepared by Anna and you. Special thanks for being flexible always (so I could travel sometimes) and especially at the last stage of my PhD when I was allowed to finish my PhD project abroad.

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Moving the memories back to the office in Groningen, the agenda was not only full of writing and statistics. I met a lot of great people there, whom I should thank for making life brighter. Alicja, Natalia, Sara - thanks for all beautiful trips we made and nice time we spent together. Additional thanks for being such great companions on the music festivals and gym trainings we had. Ruslan, Grigory, Elnaz and Eliza - thank you so much for being a great lunch team, when we could talk about everything and make a small break in the middle of the day to refresh our minds. Jacobien, thanks a lot for being such a great officemate, although for such a short time. Ahmad, thanks a lot for always being so kind and in good mood, and for all the fruits you were giving to your starving colleagues. Reinder, I would like to express many thanks for all those supporting and inspiring conversations at the end of the day. When I was sitting alone in the office, exhausted from work, you appeared and made me laugh. Petra, Joyce, Tugs and Ariuntaya, thanks for being so friendly and creating such good atmosphere in the office. Mohammedreza and Kebede, thanks for being such great and understanding office mates. Neda, your cookies were super delicious!

These 3 years of my PhD track were not full of science only, but were also full of great free time events. Bootcamp trainings, wall climbing, wine and cheese tasting, potluck dinners, Halloween parties, camp trips, alternative city tours, pub crawling, gala dinners, lectures... This is just a short list of all activities organized by the PhD organization Gopher. Thanks to all who organized all these great activities, and those who participated. These events were truly unforgettable. Special thanks to my greatest friends I managed to find in Groningen – Zhenya, Julius, Oleg, Artur – you were true support for me these years. It is not only the fact that we all could speak the same language (Russian). It is all about understanding and unity, creative spirit and willingness to join me in my crazy
ideas, which made time spent with you truly amazing. Playing pool and board games, parties, barbeques, day and weekend trips, sport events and just cosy evenings together made me feel like at home. A place where I can just be myself.

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Мама и папа, бабушка и дедушка, Катюшка!
Спасибо вам всем за поддержку и терпение. Спасибо и за то, что вы меня очень многому научили: бабушка-трудолюбию и ответственности; дедушка-изобретательности и умению преодолевать препятствия; папа-быть сильной и упорной; мама-ничего не бояться и идти с высоко поднятой головой. Катя научила меня, что главное-семья и любовь есть. Так что вы все, каждый по-своему, помогли мне дойти до конца этого пути. Получение степени и эта книга - заслуга нас всех, и спасибо вам за это!