Doing well and feeling well
Moghimi, Darya

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When I think back of the past four years that I spent in Groningen and at the RUG, I have an endless array of wonderful memories that made the PhD-time an adventure marked by laughter, joy, friendship, loyalty, and support. For all that, I am endlessly grateful and I want to thank everyone who has made this journey as much fun as it was.

First, I would like to thank my three supervisors. The trajectory of my PhD was a very turbulent time with many changes that required a lot of management from all parties involved. I want to thank you for always being responsive to all of my inquiries, for helping me keep my deadlines (especially the big final one), and for teaching me so much about academic work. For many PhDs, regular meetings and supervisors who respond to emails are something they can only dream of, but not for me. I worked with people who were always available and did their best to help me get where I am today and that made a lot of things much easier.

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the team. You showed me how to make the very best of my work, how to pay attention to details, and you were patient whenever things went wrong. You showed me that not everything is extremely important, that somethings can be done fast while other things need time, and many times you were the only person who ever asked me how I was doing and feeling, thank you for that. Your knowledge, your professionalism, and the way you don’t take mistakes and failures too seriously have been a true pleasure to work with.

Of course, work was only one (maybe not even the biggest) part of my Groningen-experience and there are so many people that I would like to thank for helping me forget about the stressful workdays and the sleepless nights; although many of those same people were also the cause for the sleepless nights, but then in a good way.

A great thanks to the minnaars and minnaressen group – you all know who you are – with whom I shared countless drinks and dinners. Many many times in the past four years, the thought of a Friday drink with you guys was what kept me going.

A smaller, but at least equally important group of people, eventually became my first group of friends in Groningen and I would like to thank you special ladies for that. Hens, you girls might never have realized that, but it was you who made me feel at home in Groningen right from the beginning. Maja and Julia, on my very first Friday in Groningen you invited me to the Minnaar, later for dinner to your place, and as so many other Fridays to follow, we ended up in the darkest corners of the Pakhuis. That night, as insignificant as it might have been for you, showed me that I made the right decision coming to Groningen (and the Pakhuis only played a minor role in that!). Felicity (and Tomas), when I started my PhD you were some kind of mystical entities that everyone talked about but who I had never seen; it was right before your wedding. All the other hens were so involved in the preparations of your present and I thought to myself, these people must be pretty great if their friends invest so much time in making their wedding day so unforgettable. When I met you, I realized what the fuss was about, thanks for all your kindness. Anne Marthe, you always have a story to tell and are so interested in other people’s stories. You made my
first Eurosonic experience a great success because suddenly you became the star of the evening. For that and many other fun times, thank you. Jolien quicklips, you hot piece of a**, it was so great to have you around, with your smart jokes, your loud laughter and your super quick legs.

Marloes, Aafke, and Kim, after everyone else had left, we were the remaining hens and together we started a new empire, the coffee chicks. Marloes, there hasn’t been a day where you have been in a bad mood or without a smile on your face. Thanks for sharing some of the most important days of your life with me, thanks for your kindness and for always being sweet, and thanks for sharing a very cold container with me in the middle of winter wonderland. Our ideas to improve the world might have been rejected due to academic politics but our moment will come! Double A, thanks for so very many memories! I remember endless bike-tours that almost broke your spirit, colorful party nights with Graham and heinous elves, trips to Maltenaria, the place where the devil takes his sunbaths, to Friesband where you rode horses without me, to Eext where we sang Annen with the eext-ax-murderer and where you had a very tiny coffee with the queen. Thank you for the fun, the friendship, the endless and still unsolved arguments about button-up or button-down, thanks for all the albinos and for everything to follow. Kimmy, thanks for showing me your home and sharing your secrets with me. I’ll always remember our walks in the park, our long talks, and all the liters of coffee we drank together. Thanks for being my partner in crime and one of the cool kids, for wanting to start a tree-cult with me, for Tapwater, for the loooooong candy, and thanks for sharing a part of your path with me. Ana, my favorite science-nerd, there is no one who is allowed to talk to me about science outside of work hours as much as you do. You were a little whirlwind that every now and then came walking into my office to provide me with the latest gossip and distract me from work, I loved it. When we start talking it goes on for hours until everyone else at the table leaves us or the bar almost closes. I am looking forward to many more nights like that! Susie, you were the latest addition to this exclusive coffee-slurping group, but it feels like you have been there from the very beginning. You are always there to listen and to help, you are always sweet, you cook badass risotto that replaces all after dinner drinks, and you’re a great writing-weekend partner. Thanks
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For the first few years of my PhD, I had to wander the hallways of the Heymans building whenever I wanted to spend some time with the wonderful colleagues and friends I just mentioned. Conny, Susan, Elissa you made the last year of my PhD so much more fun because I finally didn’t have to walk all the way to the 4th or 2nd floor for gossip, talks, micro-cries, mental breakdowns, or way too loud laughter. Conny, empathy is not only your research topic of choice but something that describes your personality. So many times, I came to you with another crazy story of my life and you almost teared up because you felt exactly what I felt. When you laugh, I cannot help but joining you in that, so never stop doing that! Susan, it was so nice to have you around. When our weeks started evolving around the Bachelor and sawadee I knew you were my kind of person. There were many weeks where your juicy vacation stories were the most interesting thing that happened in my life, thank you for that. Elissa, I am so happy that I convinced you to share an office with me. There are not many people with whom I can have a serious scientific conversation, a mental breakdown, and an even more serious conversation about lipstick brands, and all of that within five minutes. Thanks for supporting and
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My wonderful nymphs, thank you so much for being part of my special day.


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