

PREFACE

To be sure, working on my research project for my MSc thesis Technology and Policy has been a great experience. I learned valuable lessons, and improved my skills greatly. I have become better at making choices, collecting and analysing data and writing down what becomes obvious. I am happy with the result, and can say that this research project is a great ending of my studies. In this, my supervisors Aurora, Henny, Synara, Annelies, Roberto, and of course Eddy have been of great help. Thanks for your insightful comments and remarks, probing questions and useful tips.

Doing research in Peru taught me how to adjust myself to a culture where professional and social contacts are intertwined. For my pleasant experiences in Trujillo, I have a great many people to thank. The people from UPAO that gave me the support and freedom to do my own research. Thanks also to the many professionals that were willing to be interviewed, local presidents that were dedicated to improving their neighbourhoods and those living in harsh conditions and still found time to respond to the survey. Finally, living with the family of Sra Marieta and other students provided welcome distractions.

With the completion of this thesis, my studies in Eindhoven come to an end too. Studying Technology and Policy (MSc) and Innovation Sciences (BSc) at the Eindhoven University of Technology has shaped me considerably. Thanks you to all those that contribute to the high standard of education and research, including all the support staff. Also, thanks to the professors of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), where I spent my international semester.

During my studies, I have undertaken many extracurricular activities. Working with the students and staff of the University Committee Technology for Development (TvO) was always exciting and rewarding. Those that founded this committee inspired me with their passion for development issues, and my involvement with TvO has proven to be a worthwhile experience. Working with Studium Generale, the Battle of the Universities, Intermate and many others has been rewarding.

The unconditional support from my friends and family has helped me much more than I could describe here. Ria, Kees, Linah, Agata, Gertjan, Yvonne, and Alain, thanks for being my family. To my friends Alexander, Maarten, Marten, Paul and others; thanks for being such cool friends. Thank you also to all my friends from Zierikzee, the JBL168, the K-gang, Peru, South Africa and elsewhere. Your friendship has been a pleasant addition to my life as a student and helped me inexplicably with my thesis.

Finally, the proofreading and language skills contributed by my partner Lesego have been invaluable to the finished work. Her support and presence in my life make me look forward to all that will begin after graduating.

Robbert Marinus Jobse
Eindhoven, March 2008