Declaration

The work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as a part of requirement for a degree to any other institution other than Vrije Universiteit and Macquarie University under a cotutelle agreement.

I declare that the thesis is an original piece of research and it has been written by me. Any help and assistance that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself have been appropriately acknowledged.

I also certify that all information, source, and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Johanes Herlijanto

Vrije Universiteit,

Amsterdam, May 2013.
Acknowledgments

This thesis is a result of a PhD research project carried out at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, under a cotutelle joint PhD agreement with Macquarie University, Sydney.

Many people made the completion of this PhD thesis possible. First of all, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Pál Nyíri, my principal supervisor at Vrije Universiteit. Professor Nyíri has patiently supervised and provided me with invaluable assistance since I began my PhD journey in 2007. I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to Associate Professor Chris Houston and Dr Jaap Timmer, my principal and associate supervisor at Macquarie University. Without their supervision, encouragement, and patience, I would not have been able to complete this work.

I am thankful to Vrije Universiteit for funding that enabled me to stay in Amsterdam for a period of six months. I also sincerely thank Macquarie University for awarding me with an International Macquarie Research Scholarship (iMQRES) that enabled me to do this PhD project. I thank the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vrije Universiteit and the Department of Anthropology of Macquarie University for providing me with financial support to cover expenses related to this project. I also thank the Faculty of Humanities of University of Indonesia for supporting my decision to start my PhD journey.
I owe a deep appreciation to all the staff and PhD candidates at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vrije Universiteit, especially Dr Freek Colombijn, Professor Thijl Sunier, Scott Dalby, Maaike Matelski, Annet Bakker, and Monique Habets, for their warm hospitality and support during my research in Amsterdam. I am also indebted to all the staff and PhD candidates at the Department of Anthropology of Macquarie University, especially to Associate Professor Chris Lyttleton, Associate Professor Kalpana Ram, Payel Ray, Yunxia Li, Muhammad Bilal and Monica Dalidowicz for their continuous encouragement at various stages of my PhD journey.

My deepest gratitude goes to all my informants who had been very generous in sharing their stories and views with me during my fieldwork in Surabaya, Jakarta, and Semarang. I am also thankful to a number of individuals who had generously helped me in a number of ways. They include Professor A. Dahana, Professor Thomas Santoso, Dr Dede Oetomo, Dr. Gerben Nooteboom, Sidharta Adimulya, Kresno Juwono, Andi Aryan, and Choirul Mahfud. My special thanks also go to Dr Chang Yao Hoon for his useful comment on the first draft of Chapter 7 of this thesis, to Dr Thomas Chiu Syuan-yuan and Dr Hew Wai Weng for sharing their views on Muslim Chinese in Indonesia, and to Associate Professor Ariel Heryanto for his insight on the growing appreciation of Chinese Indonesians in the later years of Suharto’s Indonesia.
A number of friends, especially Syed Imtiaz Ahmad, Dr Jude Genilo, Agni Malagina, Dr Miko Kamal, Dilah Kencono, Dr Mina Elfira, Rev Robby Moningka, and Hendrako Anwar lavished me with encouragement from time to time. I wish to use this opportunity to express my appreciation to them. I also wish to express my thanks to Yeny and Hana, for their support, patience, and encouragement since I began to embark on this journey, and to my parents and brother, for their effort to accompany me in this journey through their continuous prayers. Their presence, and the presence of all people mentioned in these two pages, have made my journey to accomplish this PhD project easier to travel. For I always knew, that I did not walk alone.