# Table of contents

## Chapter 1  Introduction  

1.1 Citizens opposing policies  
1.2 The role of citizens in the policy making process  
1.3 Objective of this thesis and research question  
1.4 Research approach  

## PART 1:  
**The structure of citizen opposition**  
The development of models to analyse different forms of citizen opposition  

## Chapter 2  
**Improving the precision of the Nimby concept with a new process model of citizen opposition**  
2.1 Introduction  
2.2 Nimby in the literature  
2.3 Quadrant model of opposition positions  
2.4 Local response model  
2.5 Opposition drivers  
2.6 Discussion  

## Chapter 3  
**Nimby, or how do the rural neighbours respond to genetically modified (GM) crops?**  
An exploration of the structure of reactions by inhabitants in rural communities in The Netherlands to the commercial cultivation of GM crops in their community  
3.1 Introduction  
3.2 Analytical framework: the NIMBY model and research questions  
3.3 Methodology  
3.4 Round 1: is GM a topic to be discussed in rural communities?  
3.5 Round 2: the dynamics of the rural GM debate  
3.6 Local discussions compared with the national debate  
3.7 Discussion  

## PART 2:  
**The structure of citizen opposition in detail**
The results of empirical studies on the role of non-content related factors

Chapter 4  How to decide when information is hazy? 85
The case of GM crop cultivation in the Netherlands
4.1 Introduction 85
4.2 Methodology 89
4.3 Results 93
4.4 Reflection: dealing with uncertain risks in line with Van Asselt & Vos? 100
4.5 Discussion 101
4.6 Conclusions 105

Chapter 5  Does the law trigger citizen opposition? 107
Current and future regulations of citizen participation in land-use decision-making in the Netherlands: an analysis
5.1 Introduction 107
5.2 Reasons and criteria for citizen participation in policymaking 108
5.3 Reflections on citizen-participation in Dutch land-use planning law 114
5.4 The Future: the proposed regulation on citizen participation in the Draft Spatial Planning Act 122
5.5 Conclusions and recommendations 125

PART 3: Foreseeing societal conflict 129
A model as a means to improve constructive deliberation

Chapter 6  Anticipating societal conflicts 133
The development of a theory-based research model to explore future discourses
6.1 Introduction 133
6.2 Exploring future discourses 134
6.3 Building blocks for a research model on future discourses 135
6.4 The future discourse (FD) - model 140
6.5 Two cases studies illustrating the development of the FD-model: the design, data collection and analysis. 144
6.6 Discussion: the value of a future discourse model: modelling complexity. 151

Chapter 7  Future hot topics on animal – human interaction in the Netherlands 157
A systematic exploration of societal discourses

7.1 Introduction 157
7.2 Predicting future societal debate: the future discourse model 159
7.3 Methodology 161
7.4 Animal perception in the Netherlands in 2011: results of the questionnaire 167
7.5 Three-level building blocks to examine the future 170
7.6 Hot or not? Animal themes for societal conflict 176
7.7 Discussion 178

Chapter 8 Epilogue 181
8.1 What characteristic mechanisms of (local) citizen opposition can be distinguished? 182
8.2 Reflections on the future discourse model as a method to foresee citizen opposition 192
8.3 Recommendations to improve deliberative governance 193
8.4 From local opposition to national protest – a reflection on the results of this research 199
8.5 Recommendations for further research 201

References 205

Summary 219

Samenvatting 231

Dankwoord 243