Acknowledgements

If memory serves me, at the time I started this project I could read up on the literature with my son sleeping on my chest. He now towers above me and solves economics assignments I can’t even read. So yes, it’s been a while, and I have a lot of people to thank for their patience and restraint in the face of repeated assurances on my part that ‘it should be ready sometime next year’. Though the group directly involved in the project has been quite small, the network of actors supporting me and enriching me with their thoughts and comments has grown.

My first thanks go to Bill Fulford for blazing the philosophy and psychiatry trail and for his inspiring studies combining philosophical field work with conceptual analysis. His generosity, support, and efforts towards inclusiveness and diversity have, thankfully, had a sustained impact not only in the P&P field, but on psychiatry itself. I try to practice in this spirit, and I hope this work will serve to further efforts in values-based practice.

Being granted the opportunity to carry out this project whilst all around are scraping for time and money is a privilege, and one that was granted to me by successive managers at Duin & Bosch, Dijk & Duin, and Parnassia. For the uninitiated, that’s all actually the same place: the ‘asylum in the dunes’ in Castricum. It’s just history and market forces at work. When starting as a psychiatrist at Duin & Bosch, I was lucky enough to be surrounded by a wonderful group of colleagues doing great work in often challenging circumstances. Tonnie, Frans, Truu, Janneke, Jan, Bernadette & Antoinet, thank you for your wisdom, experience, and example.

To all my psychiatrist colleagues throughout the years in Castricum: Bedankt voor het waarnemen! Working in the clinic at Dijk en Duin, to me, was a kind of best kept secret: it was taken to be fairly cash-strapped, unfashionable, and slightly backward. In fact it was just cash-strapped, unfashionable, but full of highly dedicated professionals doing all they could to aid people in need. This ethos was and is embodied by colleagues and friends like Rob Severien, Wieger Tomassen, Colinda Herbert, Anoushka Bruggeman, Jantien Meinardi, Sandy Louw, Marieke van de Ven, Mariska Tuinman, Gerlof Janzen, Stefan Moleman, Peter Luber, Annelie de Gee, Axel Metzger and Ronnet Kwant.

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A special word here for Klaas Bets. Klaas carries great responsibility lightly, including what to do with an anomalous Scottish psychiatrist-philosopher on a crisis ward. Klaas, you have been totally supportive of me in many trying circumstances. I owe you a homemade pizza.

In my final years with Dijk & Duin, I had the privilege of filling the post of local head of residency training. I enjoyed this immensely, and this was possible due to, firstly, the support from and expertise of the residency training team in the Hague, especially Wijbrand Hoek, Jan Dirk Blom and Jennifer van de Berg, secondly, the great collaboration with the local RT team: Saskia van Liempt, Karin Stolk, Wilma de Boer, and Riet Lochy, and finally, due to the sheer joy of working with committed (aspiring) residents. Many thanks to you all.

Throughout part of the project, Elnathan Prinsen and Josephine Lenssen were part of the research team, and I have been lucky to take advantage of their brilliant and creative minds. Many thanks for your efforts and input! Also, congratulations to Elnathan for assuming the role of chairman of the NVvP. This should be fun. And congratulations Josephine with your thesis. Ben benieuwd!

For years now, a small community of psychiatrist-philosophers has been active in the Netherlands, individually and in collaborative projects. This has been a hugely enjoyable and encouraging development. I have been lucky to draw upon the keen minds and immense knowledge of, amongst others, Gerben Meynen, Leon de Bruin, Derek Strijbos, Rob de Vries, Berend Verhoef, Sanneke de Haan, Andrea Ruissen and Elleke Landeweer. Gerben I’ve apprehended your thoughts on mind reading, great work!

In recent years I have had the good fortune of joining the board of the Stitching Psychiatrie & Filosofie, whose previous recognition of this project was tremendously encouraging. The foundation plays a crucial role in the field and it is
heartening to see collaborations diversifying. I hope readers will seek out the work
of not just the van Helsdingen prize winners, but also of the board: Evert van
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Christien has also been central to the Babel initiative, a tremendously inspiring
forum for thinking beyond current academic/professional dogma. Meeting with
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these ideas into practice.

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diverse bunch can all be great psychiatrists in their own way? It’s been wonderful
seeing you again, long may you flourish. Also, thanks to Frits Milders, who advised
me to ‘keep reading’.

On a personal level, I have been surrounded by a group of friends who have
disgraced the concept of ‘Dispuut’, calling themselves Nico Bronsgeest Goes Latin,
the members of which are all chairpersons. This was always a ridiculous idea and
that remains the case. Approach with caution: Gert, Corien, Lex, Thess, Elly,
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I preach in a values-informed attitude to research. A lesson I will take to heart.

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Jesse, Lana & Evie, jullie krijgen de groeten van SuperLana, SuperEvie, en Jesse het Wonderkind (of was het de Wijze Muis?). Elke dag met jullie is een geschenk, daarom staat de computer ook midden in de speelkamer. Ik hoop dat ik niet te veel in de weg heb gestaan.

Inge: ik hoefde van jou niet te schrijven dat ik van je hou maar het is wel zo.