

## Acknowledgements

---

It takes a village to raise a child. Apparently, this saying rings true not only for children out of flesh and bones, but also for those out of paper. At this point, thanks to many people and institutions that helped in creating and bearing the latter are due. First and foremost, I would like to thank Prof. Regina Bendix, who has accompanied me on my journey through academia from the very beginning. Don't worry too much about university and good grades for now – in this first time away from home, you might have to learn how to cook an egg for yourself. This piece of advice given by Prof. Bendix to a lecture hall full of first-year bachelor students in 2007 has stuck with me ever since. And it perfectly sums up Prof. Bendix' thoughtful, gentle, and holistic approach to supervising . Thank you, Regina.

Another villager helping to raise this paper child of mine is its second supervisor Prof. Valdimar Tr. Hafstein. Already a supervisor to my master's thesis investigating Betri Reykjavík, also one of the research fields for this book, Prof. Hafstein has supportingly accompanied me in the further development of my research questions for many years. An Icelander himself, Prof. Hafstein served as a patient counterpart in testing and refining my assumptions about Icelandic culture and society. It was his down-to-earth and pragmatic nature that provided me with, amongst many other things, housing during field stays in Reykjavík and meetings with hard-to-get interview partners. Takk fyrir, Valdimar.

I also have to thank Prof. Michaela Fenske, the supervisor of my already mentioned master's thesis. My master's thesis was actually born out of a paper I presented in her class on political culture as early in 2011. Being both a very calm and determined teacher, Prof. Fenske supported me from the very beginning in pursuing my research questions. Cuddles from her sweet dog during meetings also helped. Moreover, thanks are due to Dr. Julia Fleischhack. Although we only met at the end of my writing process, member of the examining board Dr. Fleischhack kindly drew my attention to interesting concepts and latest literature vital to my research.

Clearly, this book would not exist without the many interlocutors I met in both Friesland and Iceland over the years. All of them were wonderful people and I am forever grateful that they took the time to talk to me about politics, participation, the Internet, and the best places to get coffee. Danke and takk!

To the Stiftung der deutschen Wirtschaft (sdw), I am deeply indebted for three things: its substantial financial support that enabled me to pursue my research without distractions; the highly diverse events' programme, that enabled me to take part in very interesting workshops and meet-ups both in- and outside my professional and personal comfort zones; and finally, I thank the sdw for making be part of a community of intelligent and ambitious young people, some of which I hope will remain amongst my closest friends for my whole life. I thank the Göttinger Graduiertenschule für Geisteswissenschaften (GSGG) for the extensive and uncomplicated financial support of my research trips and conference attendances. I would not know how the extensive physical fieldwork in Iceland and Friesland would have been possible otherwise. Thanks to GSGG, I was able to present various stages of my work at conferences in Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and the UK.

Conducting focus groups seemed a daunting task at the beginning. I thank Dr. Sabine Wöhlke for sparking my interest and taking the time to introduce me to the concept from a cultural anthropologist's view. My former employer, the Institut für Demokratieforschung, I thank for the opportunity to moderate my very first focus groups and for equipping me with important resources. Thanks are also due to friends and fellow students, especially Nathalie Knöhr und Sina Wohlgemuth, that read parts of my writing at various stages and always provided valuable feedback. For the publication of this book, I am grateful to professional reader and translator Matthew Fennessy who made both my argumentation and my diction clearer and stronger. I also thank professional editor and compositor Sascha Bühler for transforming my manuscript into the right style format for publishing.

In the course of writing my dissertation, I came to highly appreciate blogs dealing with academic writing and more specifically, writing a PhD thesis for their easy-accessible, comprehensive, detailed advice. The blogs I turned most often to are patter (<https://pathomson.net>, @ThomsonPat), The Thesis Whisperer (<https://thesiswhisperer.com>, @thesiswhisperer), and Explorations of Style (<https://explorationsofstyle.com>, @explorstyle). Blogs by academics however did not only prove helpful in questions on writing stylistics and techniques of data analysis, but also regarding such topics like time management, working from home, and managing being simultaneously a PhD student and a mother. Here, I am especially grateful to the blogs and Twitter accounts of Dr. Academic Batgirl (<http://www.academicbatgirl.com>, @AcademicBatgirl), Academic Mama (<https://www.academicmama.com>, @AcademicMamaPhD), and the recordings of Alexis Shot-

well's workshop on "Suffering Free Academic writing" on YouTube. I feel like in a way these authors became like the friendly colleagues that I lacked after our move away from Göttingen (University), my intellectual home.

Finally, I thank running for helping me keep my sanity in these crazy years, as well as the two people closest to my heart, my husband, Franz and my son, Fritz Konrad. I love you.

Schwerin, October 2019

