

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to many, many people who have supported me through the years in which this project was my constant companion. Prof. Scheiding has continuously encouraged and challenged me. Prof. Hornung has provided opportunity where he would not have had to. For this, I am thankful to both.

My life changed in fundamental ways, personally, professionally, and academically because of JGU's Dijonbüro and its trinational program in Germany, France, and Canada. Enrolling when I was a new student was the best choice I could have taken so many years ago, and if I have a PhD today, it is also because of this program.

Colleagues and friends in Mainz have contributed in many ways to the completion of this work. They have read and reread chapters, provided feedback, ideas, and comments. They have also shared offices, conversations, food, drinks, and laughs. Most of all, they have kept me sane. Thank you Damien, Max, Franzi, Johanna, Pia, Frank, Lena, Anja, René, Florian, Torsten, and my adoptive GraKo friends; and Tanja, Marion, Linda, and Jeri, who are Mainzers at heart. Frau Vollrath keeps the machine running at all times and has been of great help throughout the years. Anna has been my little sister in spirit and will go on to do great things. Kerstin and Wanja, you have done a lot for me, and I thank you from the heart.

I have to single out my unforgettable PGF ladies of 2014, Caroline, Diane, Melanie, Nicole, Xiuming for an incredible experience, and for all that came before and after. I am inspired by all the young scholars who are committed to the PGF and salute their dedication.

From all the scholars I have met along the way, I have taken in something valuable that cannot be repaid. I want to thank here, in particular, Dr. Linda Morra and Dr. Gordon Barker for lighting the fire. Extraordinary teaching and academic excellence have passed on the spark to be lit in others.

The greatest gift are parents who are supportive even when what you do is venturing into the unknown, and because of that, I owe them everything. My family has helped me in ways they might not realize; we are often loud and often messy, but that has been inspiration and motivation all the same.

I have no regrets having done this work, and I would do it all over again.