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Boletsi, M.

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The process of working on this dissertation has been solitary and social, rewarding and at times frustrating, pragmatic and irrational, marked by frantic writing and writer's blocks. In many ways, it felt like flying in a hot-air balloon: you have to take distance from the rest of the world, temporarily lose the ground under your feet, suffer from vertigo, and sacrifice a lot of excessive weight to get where you want. But although this exciting venture was for a big part a ride for one, I was fortunate to have several people around me who contributed to the course this ride took by inspiring me, offering their feedback, advice, and support in different stages of the process, and making sure that I land back on earth safe and sound. To these people, I owe a big thank you.

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Outside the Netherlands, during the summer of 2006 I took part in the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, a productive summer of intensive training in critical theory. I want to thank the SCT faculty, and especially professors Ella Shohat and Robert Stam for their inspirational seminar and their feedback on my work. I also owe many thanks to the participants, and particularly Arne de Boever and Olivia Harrison: our acquaintance during this summer school turned into a valuable friendship, unraveling against an international backdrop: Ithaca, Amsterdam, Paris, New York, and (hopefully soon) Los Angeles.

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During the first two years of my doctoral research in Leiden, I also worked at the University of Amsterdam for the making of the first big Modern Greek-Dutch / Dutch-Modern Greek dictionary. The colleagues and friends I had the privilege of working with in this team-project gave me a delightful and stimulating distraction from my dissertation. I still miss the brainteasers of barely translatable words and idioms, but most of all the weekly contact with Arnold van Gemert, Marietje Wennekendonk, Jelmer Nicolai, Marc Lauxtermann, Marjolijne Janssen, Arthur Bot, and Tatiana Markaki. Thank you for your warmth. Thank you, too, for preventing me from losing hold of my language.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Maria Boletsi was born on June 15, 1979 in Corfu, Greece. After finishing her secondary education at the Experimental Highschool of Thessaloniki in 1997, she studied Classics and Modern Greek Literature at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where she graduated cum laude in 2001. During her studies in Thessaloniki, she spent a semester as an exchange-student at the Department of Modern Greek and Byzantinology of the University of Amsterdam (1999-2000). Upon receiving her degree in Greece, she moved to the Netherlands and continued her studies there. At the University of Amsterdam, she received a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature (2003) with a minor degree in English Literature, and a research master's degree in Cultural Analysis (2005), both cum laude. Her master's thesis was awarded the third thesis prize of the University of Amsterdam, as well as the Herman Servotte thesis prize from the University of Leuven, Belgium. Parallel to her graduate studies, from 2003 to 2006 Maria also worked at the University of Amsterdam in the team for the making of the first extended Dutch-Modern Greek / Modern Greek-Dutch dictionary (Prisma 2008).

In September 2005 she received a Ph.D. position at the Institute for Cultural Disciplines (LUICD) of Leiden University. During her doctoral research in Leiden, she had the opportunity to teach at the Comparative Literature Department, co-organize workshops and international conferences, and present her work at several international conferences and symposia in Amsterdam, Ghent, Leeds, Leiden, Los Angeles, New York, Princeton, Thessaloniki, Vancouver, and elsewhere. She also participated in the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, Ithaca (2006) and spent a semester as a visiting scholar at Columbia University, New York (2008-2009).

Maria has published articles on C.P. Cavafy, J.M. Coetzee, Jamaica Kincaid, literary speech acts, migration, Balkan nationalism, and barbarism, in several edited volumes, as well as in journals such as *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Arcadia*, and *Thamyris/Intersecting*. She has also co-edited the volume *Inside Knowledge: (Un)doing Ways of Knowing in the Humanities* (Cambridge Scholars Press 2009). She is currently co-authoring a book on contemporary Dutch literature together with Isabel Hoving, Liesbeth Minnaard, and Sarah de Mul.