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Elites and their children : a study in the historical anthropology of medieval China, 500-1000 AD

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From 2004-2006 I was able to sustain myself through a teaching position at the Chinese department of Leiden University. These two years contained magic months spent at Burgerzaken Café where I have written more than half of my entire thesis (and where I continue my writings). I want to thank everybody there, especially Carolina Toret. Among those people who have shown me the intricate merits that acts of procrastination contain for new research were above all Lewis Mayo and Christian Uhl, real friends and teachers. Their support can never be made equal. I also thank Ethan Mark for his encouragement in many ways. Furthermore, there are a number of people who came along with the interior of Burgerzaken, who made me drink and laugh a lot, who made me feel at home and even gave me their home – which made me work most efficiently.

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Curriculum Vitae

Annika Pissin is afkomstig uit de stad Kaiserslautern, het *Bundesland* Rheinland Pfalz van het land Duitsland. Zij werd er in het laatste regeringsjaar van bondskanselier Willy Brandt [1973] geboren en groeide vervolgens op in het dorp Heidenrod Kemel in het *Bundesland* Hessen. Als kind las zij graag boeken en zij hield zeer van bergen en bossen. In het elfde jaar van de regeringsperiode van bondskanselier Kohl [1993] behaalde zij het *Abitur* aan het Gymnasium Elly-Heuss-Schule te Wiesbaden. In de zomer van het vijfde jaar van Heisei [1993] vertrok zij naar de stad Tokyo in het land Japan waar zij tot het zevende jaar van Heisei [1995] verbleef om de taal van dit land te leren. Ook voedde zij een kind van een ander familie op en vooral beklom zij bergen. In het dertiende jaar van de regeringsperiode van bondskanselier Kohl [1995] vertrok zij naar de stad Heidelberg in het *Bundesland* Baden-Württemberg in het land Duitsland waar zij vier jaar lang leefde, studeerde, bergen beklom en nog twee kinderen van weer een ander familie opvoedde. Zij begon haar studie Moderne Sinologie en Economie aan de Rupertus Carolus Universiteit te Heidelberg en een jaar later de studies Geografie en Ethnologie. Nog een jaar later begon zij haar studie Klassieke Sinologie en daarna Filosofie. In het begin van de regeringsperiode van de bondskanselier Schröder [januari 1999] behaalde ze het diploma *Zwischenprüfung* voor Ethnologie en even later de *Zwischenprüfung* voor Klassieke Sinologie. Vervolgens verbleef zij vanaf de zomer van het jaar 88 [1999] tot en met de zomer van het jaar 89 [2000] in de republiek Taiwan, in de stad Tainan om daar haar kennis van het klassiek Chinees te verdiepen, modern Chinees te leren, antropologisch onderzoek aan de Mazu-tempel te verrichten en door de bergen te lopen. In het zesde jaar van de regeringsperiode van minister-president Kok [2000] ging zij naar de stad Leiden in de provincie Zuid-Holland in het land Nederland waar zij aan de Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden aan de opleiding Talen en Culturen van China studeerde met als bijvakken Antropologie, Geschiedenis en Filosofie. Er waren geen bergen en haar vrienden vonden haar landkeuze raar. Toch verbleef zij daar voor een lange tijd, ging verder met het opvoeden van de twee kinderen en legde haar doctoraalexamen af in de achtste maand van het eerste jaar van de regeringsperiode van minister-president Balkenende [augustus 2003]. Tussen de negende maand van het tweede jaar en de negende maand van het zevende jaar van deze regeringsperiode [september 2004 tot september 2009] werkte zij als externe onderzoeker bij de sectie Chinese Geschiedenis van het Sinologisch Instituut om haar onderzoek over kinderen in het middeleeuwse China in een proefschrift uit te werken. In deze periode hoefde zij de twee kinderen niet meer op te voeden maar doceerde drie jaren lang klassiek Chinees en Chinese geschiedenis aan de Universiteit Leiden. Haar studenten waren talrijk. Ook verbleef zij enkele maanden in Taiwan en Duitsland waar zij onderzoek voor haar proefschrift verrichtte. In de herfst van haar laatste jaar te Leiden trok zij de bergen in en sindsdien weet niemand meer waar zij is gebleven.