Acknowledgements

This research has been possible due to the funds received by the foundation of S.Saripolou, at the University of Athens. It is also much indebted to my two supervisors John Bintliff and Hans Kamermans, who shared my enthusiasm for the topic of my research and encouraged me to undertake my PhD in Leiden University. John Bintliff has been very supportive at the first stages of my research and Hans Kamermans has kept a smile through most of this long and difficult process and has also made the publication of this thesis possible. Many thanks to the Faculty’s staff who have helped one way or another, especially to Tjaco Mast, who saved me a great deal of time in map visualisation through the involvement of several MA students in image registration. Medy Oberendorff has also worked with me hard on the final stage of the publication of the thesis and I thank her for her time and effort. Many thanks go also to Vance Watrous, who has been very encouraging and helpful at the final stage of my thesis and I thank him for his interest and support.

I would also like to express my gratitude to several scholars whose work I have studied and who shared with me their experience with patience and interest. Jennifer Moody has been exceptionally supportive and open about her work and I thank her for spending time with me whenever I asked. Sinclair Hood has been most welcoming and I have greatly profited from discussions with Peter Warren and Gerald Gadogan, who allowed me to understand landscape work of the 60’s. Many thanks go also to Jan Driessen, Krysztof Nowicki, Barbara Hayden, Keith Branigan, Antonis Vasilakis, Katerina Kopaka and Nena Galanidou, who shared time and thoughts with me during the process of my thesis. My work has profited greatly from long discussions with Martijn van Leusen regarding survey methodology and I would also like to thank Bernard Knapp, Tom Strasser, Anayia Sarpaki and Kornelia Kleinitz, for their interest and exchange of ideas. Maarten and Aurora Jansen have also been exceptionally supportive throughout my stay in Leiden and I have greatly enjoyed our discussions. Many thanks go also to Claudia Regoor and several PhD students in Leiden University, in particular Hanna Stoeger, who has helped me in many different ways throughout my stay in Leiden.

Finally, most of my gratitude goes to my parents, brother and sister, who have been exceptionally supportive and patient without questioning my choices; this work would not have been possible without their love and concern and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I am also most grateful to all my friends in Rethimno, who have been very encouraging in difficult times and with who I shared lovely times and in-depth appreciation for the Cretan landscape.