The handle http://hdl.handle.net/1887/62456 holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Rosen Jacobson, Liesbeth
Title: 'The Eurasian question' : the colonial position and postcolonial options of colonial mixed ancestry groups from British India, Dutch East Indies and French Indochina compared
Date: 2018-05-30
Acknowledgments

As has been said by many PhD-candidates before me, writing a dissertation is fascinating and rewarding but often also a challenging and lonely task. While you could consider writing papers or an MA thesis in terms of ascending summits like the Matterhorn in the Alps, writing a PhD-thesis is more like climbing Mount Everest. You need a longer period to acclimatise, and regular breaks during which you can enjoy the views. Now and then you may need to descend to basecamp to recover. Similar to mountaineering in the Himalayas, writing a dissertation is not something that should be done alone. Fortunately, I had the support of many people, for which I am extremely grateful.

First of all, I would like to thank NWO for funding my research and the N.W. Posthumus Institute, the Dutch and Flemish research school for social and economic history for its support in applying for funding. In particular, I would like to thank its president at the time Jeroen Touwen for acquiring the grant for four PhDs under the auspices of the Posthumus Institute. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Institute for History and the Leiden University Fund, Van Walsem, for funding my research trips to Hanoi, Dalat and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, and Aix-en-Provence, as well as conference trips to Toronto, Paris, and Valencia.

I am very grateful to the Vietnamese historical researcher Pham van Thuy, who wrote a letter of recommendation that allowed me to enter the Vietnamese archives. Thuy defended his PhD in Leiden and I was one of his ‘paranimfs’, which was a huge source of inspiration for writing my own PhD-thesis. Secondly, I would like to thank all the archivists whom I met on my archival trips. My research in Asian archives in Vietnam was a particularly enriching experience as I met various historians there from different parts of the world. One of the archivists in the Vietnamese National Archives no.1 deserves special mention – Hai Yen or Anna (her European name), who interviewed me about doing research as a foreigner in Vietnamese archives, was so kind to introduce me to the director of Vietnamese National Archives no.1. The director, Ha van Hue, introduced me to the directors of two other archival centres in Vietnam, namely archive no.4 in Dalat and archive no. 2 in Ho Chi Minh city. As a result I was able to carry out research in those places as well, rather unexpectedly, which yielded even more interesting material for my research.

Thirdly, I would like to thank all colleagues from the department of Economic and Social History at the institute for history at Leiden University, especially my supervisors Marlou Schrover and Irial Glynn, who were both always enthusiastic and inspiring about my research, but also my room colleagues Jaco, Evelien, David, Teuntje,
Girija and Anne. I would like to thank other colleagues and fellow PhDs at the Institute for History in Leiden, in particular the participants at the so-called ‘small gathering’.

Fourthly, of course I would also like to thank my friends Esther, Vera, Denise, Chloë, Eefje for their mental support and very ‘gezellige’ dinners, my volleyball team, my yoga friend Elisabeth, my swimming colleague of art history Laura, my mountain hiking friend Jacobine and other friends and acquaintances I may have forgot to mention, but have helped me in their own ways along the small path of PhD-research. Special thanks go to the charming beta guy I met in the last year of my PhD-project, who likes to be in the mountains as often as I do.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, my older sister Irene and other family members, who have always supported me and provided for calm weekend retreats with long walks in the woods and along the dunes at the coast now and then.