

Acknowledgements

I can't quite believe that I've actually written my thesis. It still feels like something I'll have to do eventually; something that needs crossing off the master to-do list. That's not for the lack of hard work that it took to get to this point (trust me!), but more because the last three years and eight weeks have been so enjoyable. Although I had a lot to do with the whole hard work part, I can't claim credit for how much I've enjoyed my DPhil - that all goes to the people in my life that made it so.

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I'm not sure if the fact that I'm listening to Bruce Springsteen as I type this or the fact that I've actually completed my thesis will make my parents more proud; it's a pretty close call! Mum & Dad, I don't think there's enough trees on this planet to make enough paper for me to write down how grateful I am for everything you've ever done for me. You always told me there was nothing I couldn't do if I set my mind to it, you gave me every opportunity and you trusted me to make the right decisions about my life. I hope what I've decided to do with it makes you proud, because I am one proud daughter. I'm also one proud sister. Meg, during the past three years I've got to watch you grow from my crazy, wonderful little sister into the crazy, smart young woman who walks around Bath like she's always lived there. Thank you for being my best friend, for sharing in my crazy and for bringing so much laughter into my life. You're my person.

So I'm already weeping at my desk but there's still one person left to thank. Sam, you are the best thing in my life. I count myself lucky for every day I get to spend with you. Thank you for supporting me every step of the way through my PhD, even if it meant spending time apart. Thank you for being the other half of my crazy and for bringing so much joy to my days. I still maintain that the only person who will ever read my thesis as thoroughly as I did, is you. I'd say I can't believe you did that for me, but I can.

Oy with the poodles already!

Becky
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