“Nothing of me is original. I am the combined effort of everybody I’ve ever known.”
—Chuck Palahniuk (Invisible Monsters)

“Always try to climb very high to be able to see far away.”
—Constantin Brancusi

The journey to a Ph.D. is a long, winding one. At the very beginning it is wide and spacious, only to become narrower and narrower. Sometimes it goes steeply upwards, sometimes downwards. Sometimes you think you see an opening and light after the next turn, only to find a dead end. There are crossings, where one has to choose which path to pursue. Some paths look more promising than others but you quickly learn that the easy path is not always the shortest.

I am now at the end of the path, only to realize that it is the beginning of a new. I would not have gotten here without the assistance and encouragement of several people.

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