

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to all who make things with their hands...

Acknowledgements

Firstly I would like to acknowledge with deepest gratitude my supervisors Dr Britta Kalkreuter and Dr Lisa Macintyre for without your nurturing and guidance, this thesis would not be possible. If not for your faith in me, this journey would have ended a long time ago...

My colleagues, Ms Zhangnan and Ms Li Jiangping, who have helped me throughout my Mosuo venture, thank you. Together with your interest and enthusiasm in my work, we have helped to give voice to the Mosuo weavers and other Chinese minority ethnic artisans who otherwise might have been drowned out by the noise of commercialism. Xie-xie!

My 'partners-in-crime' – Aum Tsheing Dem and Aum Karma Yangchen – without your inspiration, passion, teaching and friendship, this study would not have been possible. Throughout my stay in Bhutan, you both have taught me so much and I will forever be indebted to you; how I wish I could return to the mountains where we can spend hours appreciating the quiet beauty of things made by hand. To my friends, Sioksian Pek-Dorji, Dasho Kinley Dorji who so graciously shared with me and made me fall in love with Bhutan, and to Mr Kinzang Tobgyal and Mr Chimi Palden who made my research mission to Bhutan possible, namey samey kadrin chhe la!

I would like to express my gratitude to Ms Sheila Rodrick, Ms Catherine Campbell, Ms Rebecca Hutton, Mr Donald John MacKay, Mr Ian MacKay and Mr John Bennie. All of you have taught me how to appreciate the beauty of an itchy textile and to love the cloth that has been woven by the sweat of a weaver's brow.

Importantly, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the weavers who participate in this study for without your stories, I would have nothing to say.

This thesis could not have been possible if Mr Marek Rejman-Greene had not self-appointed himself as my mentor. Your support, encouragement, interest and constant challenges (aggravating at times, annoying at best!) has pushed me to my limits and yet,

at the same time, you have provided me with a safety net knowing that if I should fall, you will be there to give me a hand. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mr Marcus Webster, as a gardener, you have planted flowers along my PhD path so that when I recall my time here in Scotland, it is not the stones and boulders that I will remember but days of joy, glee and happiness. Thank you for sharing and showing me the best of the Borders for without you and 'G10 LDR', my life here would have been much, much poorer. I treasure all the laughter we have every morning when we wake from sleep; how blessed am I! Your love, kindness, and silliness will always be with me...

To all my friends: Dr Sun Danmei, Ms Janis Embleton, Ms Mags Fenner, Mr Alastaire Lings, Mr Francis Bostrom, Dr Ben Sturgeon, Fr Basil Clark, Mr James Ballantyne and my schoolmates, and many others too numerous to mention, my deepest gratitude for cheering along with me.

Finally, this work is nothing short of a miracle! Yes, I give thanks and praise to the One who created the moons, suns, planets and the earth. This is a testament of 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13)