Propositions supplement to the dissertation

WORKING ON ACTIVATION
Analyses of stories about vocational rehabilitation of people with disabilities in the Netherlands

1. Returning-to-work has more to do with identity work than with learning new skills. (this dissertation)

2. The rhetoric of empowerment in labour market activation has disempowering consequences for clients and professionals in vocational rehabilitation programmes. (this dissertation)

3. Instead of a personal characteristic, ‘motivation’ is an outcome of an interactive process between client and professional within a specific institutional context. (this dissertation)

4. A one-sided focus on the abilities of people with disabilities paradoxically hampers the realisation of abilities needed for successful vocational rehabilitation. (this dissertation)

5. Public accountability frameworks in social services – in which only the final results count and the process does not – make the good work of professionals invisible.

6. To improve care practices we should no longer foreground the effectiveness but, instead, investigate the various [unintended] effects of interventions. (Annemarie Mol, 2006)

7. By focusing on numbers of people with disabilities that should be included in the labour market, the recent debate about the Dutch Participation Act bypasses the essential question of how sustainable labour participation can be attained.

8. It seems a matter of perspective whether activation is considered a solution or a problem. Studies of activation practices show it is both.

9. Defining drug addiction as a social problem contributes to a varied society.

10. In writing a thesis as well as cooking meals it is of uttermost importance to keep your public (readers as well as eaters) in mind in order to keep the result digestible.

Lineke van Hal, autumn 2013