

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wilma (Willemina Elzeline) Waterlander was born at July 25<sup>th</sup> 1984 in the lovely city of Sneek (Snits), the Netherlands. After moving around in the Northern Province Friesland for nine years, she and her family moved to Aalten, where Wilma graduated secondary school, Atheneum, at Christian College Schaersvoorde. Following that, Wilma moved to Amsterdam and started her study Health Sciences at the VU University Amsterdam in 2002. Within the bachelor phase, Wilma completed a scientific internship at the municipal health service (GGD) Amsterdam and worked on a project to increase sexual health knowledge among children with lower language and reading skills. In September 2005, Wilma got her Bachelor's degree and following that she started the two-year master program 'Public Health Research' at the VU. During this research master, she completed two internship projects. The first was at the Governmental Institute of Public Health and the Environment and involved a longitudinal study into the consistence of food habits among children (aged 2-7). The second internship was at TNO Quality of Life in Leiden and Wilma did a project on the importance of social networks in stimulating physical activity among Turkish and Moroccan migrants in the Netherlands. After her study, Wilma worked shortly as a 'general and technical services' employee for Rabobank head office, which was a very insightful working experience. Her heart was however in science, and in November 2007, Wilma started her PhD project at the Department of Health Sciences at the VU University Amsterdam. During her PhD, Wilma got also interested in politics and she joined the board of PvdA Amstelveen. Politics are really something different and all the meetings, preparing the municipal elections, being in the interview panel for the new PvdA candidates and doing the street actions gave her all very valuable knowledge. Nevertheless, Wilma her heart was still in science and in February 2012 she started a new job as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute for Health Innovations (NIHI) at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She and her partner Mark will be living in (and enjoying!) New Zealand for the coming two years.

