

Descartes' Doctrine of Clear and Distinct Perception

— **A Systematic Clarification**



Inauguraldissertation

Zur Erlangung der Doktorwürde (Doctor philosophiae)

der Philosophischen Fakultät

der **Reprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**

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Datum der Promotion: 13. 07. 2016

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July 2016

Berichte aus der Philosophie

Weite Zhang

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A Systematic Clarification

Shaker Verlag
Aachen 2016

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Zugl.: Heidelberg, Univ., Diss., 2016

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Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8440-4750-9

ISSN 0945-0947

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen

Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9

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To My Great-grandfather

Shengqi Zhang

My Grandfather & Granduncle

Tianzhou Zhang & Tianhu Zhang

And My Parents

Changhua Zhang & Zhenju Wu

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Andreas Kemmerling for offering me an unforgettable opportunity to study with him at the Philosophisches Seminar at the Universität Heidelberg. He has given me a chance to go into the field of philosophy for the doctoral degree after I had finished my studies in comparative literature (BA) and Chinese ancient literature (MA) at Tsinghua University (Beijing). He has given me lasting support, help and valuable guidance to the writing of my dissertation, and also has given me great freedom to organize studies and carry out my research plan in Heidelberg. I have learned so much from his seminars, lectures, and works (especially *Ideen des Ichs – Studien zu Descartes' Philosophie*, Frankfurt a.M.: Vittorio Klostermann, 2005²). I have also greatly benefited from the discussions in the Colloquium held by him, where I have made 7 reports concerning my dissertation. My sincere gratitude also goes to my second supervisor Prof. Dr. Peter McLaughlin, who had given me many useful suggestions to improve my dissertation. I thank the two supervisors very much for the time and effort that they have spent on me.

My sincere thanks also go to Prof. Dr. Wenchao Li (Hannover), who had helped me so much in the procedure of attaining an opportunity for studying in Germany. I would also like to express my thanks to other teachers in Germany, from who I have learned so much, especially Prof. Dr. Anton F. Koch (Heidelberg), Dr. Asher Jiang (Heidelberg), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag (Freiburg), Prof. Dr. Martin Sattler (ISTITUTO ITALIANO per gli STUDI FILOSOFICI, Heidelberg). Special thanks are due to Zach Slanger (Duquesne) for his careful and professional proofreading of my whole dissertation. My thanks also go out to my friends in Germany, Gang Yi, Chengpei Hsia, Nanjun Zhou, Liang Chen, Dr. Yanwen Li, Dr. Huojin Xiong, Prof. Dr. Jianwei Zhang, Wenjuan Cui, Chen Chen, Shuai Wang, Shanshan Gao, Xin Jin, Sylvia Mieskes, Dr. Judith Omtzigt, and Gabriele von Sivers-Sattler, with whom I spent such a pleasant time and from whom I have benefited a great deal.

I am also very thankful to the China Scholarship Council for funding my stay in Heidelberg, without which my studies in Germany is impossible and my objective is

also unrealizable. I would like to thank those staffs in the Consulate General of the P.R. China in Frankfurt, Dr. Xuan Liu, Yang Zheng, and Dr. Zheng Chen, who had provided necessary assistance in affairs concerning this scholarship.

When expressing my gratitude to those who helped me in one way or another, I must mention those teachers in China, Prof. Zhongchen Wang (Tsinghua University, Beijing), Prof. Dr. Siwei Xie (Tsinghua University), Prof. Dr. Shi Liu (Tsinghua University), Prof. Dr. Mingjun Sun (Tsinghua University), Prof. Dr. Xiaodun Wang (Wenzhou University), Prof. Shimin Geng (Minzu University of China, Beijing), and Prof. Dr. Jijie Song (Tsinghua University), who had played a crucial role in developing my academic interest in humanity (literature and philosophy) during my studies in Beijing. In the past 7 years, they have lastingly shown loving care for my growth. I am very thankful for their constant support and encouragement.

Finally, I would express a deep sense of gratitude to my family, and this dissertation could not have been completed without their blessing, encouragement, self-devotion, and support. I express my indescribable thanks to my great-grandfather Shengqi Zhang, my grandfather Tianhu Zhang, and my granduncle Tianzhou Zhang, who had set a goal for my whole family and always blessed me in the heaven. Special thanks are due to my parents, brothers and sisters. My parents, Changhua Zhang & Zhenju Wu, have always encouraged me to challenge myself and to overcome difficulties in pursuing my dream. My elder brothers, Xite Zhang and Shaote Zhang, had provided part of crucial financial support for my studies at some stages. Other family members, Zongxiu Zhang, Dr. Weiyu Zhang, Zongming Zhang, Qite Zhang, Yao Chen, etc, also always stand by me in all situations. They were closely related to my life and education at every stage before my student career ended in last month. I feel sorry that I have never spent a new year's eve with them in the past 7 years. I have missed them a lot during my memorable stay in Heidelberg.

Weite Zhang

Heidelberg, August 15, 2016

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used for Descartes' works frequently referred to in this dissertation. Other abbreviations will be mentioned in texts or footnotes when occasions demand.

Editions Quoted

- AT** *Oeuvres de Descartes*, 11 Vols. (revised edition), ed. by C. Adam & P. Tannery. Paris: J. Vrin, 1982–1991. (Cited as **AT** volume number: page number)
- CSM** *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vols. 1 & 2, trans. by J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, and D. Murdoch. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984, 1985. (Cited as **CSM** volume number: page number)
- CSMK** *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes: The Correspondence*, Vol. 3, trans. by J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, D. Murdoch, and A. Kenny. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. (Cited as **CSMK**: page number)
- HR** *The Philosophical Works of Descartes*, 2 Vols., trans. by Elizabeth S. Haldane & G. R. T. Ross. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978, 1979. (Cited as **HR** volume number: page number)
- JC** *Descartes' Conversation with Burman*, recorded by Frans Burman (1628-1679), trans. by J. Cottingham. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976. (Cited as **JC**: page number)

Single Works Quoted

- Rules** *Rules for the Direction of the Mind* (ca. 1619-1628)
- World** *The World* (ca.1629-1633)
- Treatise** *Treatise on Man* (ca.1629-1633)
- Discourse** *Discourse on the Method* (1637)

<i>Meditations</i>	<i>Meditations on the First Philosophy</i> (1641)
<i>Search</i>	<i>The Search for Truth</i> (probably written in the same period as the <i>Meditations</i>)
<i>Principles</i>	<i>Principles of Philosophy</i> (1644)
<i>Comments</i>	<i>Comments on a Certain Broadsheet</i> (1648)
<i>Conversation</i>	<i>Descartes' Conversation with Burman</i> (1648)
<i>Passions</i>	<i>The Passions of the Soul</i> (1649)

Reference Format

<i>Rules, X.Y</i>	the Y th paragraph of the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 21) Rule of the <i>Rules</i> ; when Y = 0, Y refers to the descriptive content under the title of the X th Rule
<i>Discourse, X.Y</i>	the Y th paragraph of the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 6) part of the <i>Discourse</i>
<i>Med. X.Y</i>	the Y th paragraph of the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 6) <i>Meditation</i> of the <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Xth Replies</i>	the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 7) <i>Set of Replies</i> of the <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Xth Objections</i>	the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 7) <i>Set of Objections</i> of the <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Principles, X.Y</i>	the Y th item of the X th (X=1, 2, 3, 4) part of the <i>Principles</i>
<i>Conversation, X</i>	the X th (X = 1, 2, ... 82) item of the <i>Conversation</i>
<i>Passions, X.Y</i>	the Y th (Y = 1, 2, ... 212) item, the X th (X=1, 2, 3) part of the <i>Passions</i>

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