Preface

Today, the relationships between Asia and the Western world make headlines only when they concern economic deals, folk-ideological confrontations, or divergent ideas on how to solve international crises. The cultural and, more specifically, academical links are frequently disregarded. This book aims at being an argument against such systematic lack of interest for the results of collaborations between Western and Eastern intellectuals and academics: what emerges from the juxtaposition of papers of different geo-cultural origins—but dealing with the same issues—is sometimes a novel approach, which takes advantage of the multifaceted sensibilities inherited by the scholarly legacies that contributed to the debate. This volume is a collection of selected papers that were presented at the international conference Philosophy and Cognitive Science (PCS2013), held at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, P.R. China, in November 2013 (chairs Lorenzo Magnani and Ping Li) and at the International Workshop Visual Abduction or Abductive Vision? held at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), Daejeon, South Korea, in October/November 2013 (chair Woosuk Park).

Previous volumes prepared the basis for the realization of PCS2013 and of
KAIST Vision Workshop, as meetings explicitly devoted to the conjunction of
Western and Eastern studies. These volumes also originated from international joint
research projects, which succeeded in establishing a first relationship between the
two worlds in the area of philosophy and cognitive science. *Model-Based
Reasoning in Scientific Discovery*, edited by L. Magnani, N.J. Nersessian, and
P. Thagard (Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York, 1999), based on the
papers presented at the first “model-based reasoning” international conference, held
at the University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy in December 1998, has been translated into
Chinese, China Science and Technology Press, Beijing, 2000. *Abduction, Reason,
and Science* by L. Magnani was translated by Dachao Li and Yuan Ren and
published by Guangdong People’s Publishing House, Guangzhou, in 2006. Other
volumes, *Science, Cognition, and Consciousness*, edited by P. Li et al. (JiangXi
People’s Press, Nanchang, China, 2004, published in Chinese and English),
*Philosophical Investigations from a Perspective of Cognition*, edited by L. Magnani
and P. Li (Guangdong People’s Publishing House, Guangzhou, China, 2006,
published in Chinese), *Model-Based Reasoning in Science, Technology, and
Medicine*, edited by L. Magnani and P. Li (Springer, Berlin/New York, 2007),
derived from the following previous conferences: “Model-Based Reasoning in
Science and Medicine” (MBR06_CHINA, held at Sun Yat-sen University,
Guangzhou, China, July 2006), the first “Philosophy and Cognitive Science”
international conference (PCS2004, held at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou,
China, June 2004) and the second “Philosophy and Cognitive Science” interna-
tional conference (PCS2011, held at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China,
May 2011).

The presentations given at the Guangzhou and Daejeon meetings addressed
various recent topics at the crossroad of philosophy and cognitive science, espe-
cially taking advantage of both Western and Eastern research. The selected papers
contained in the proceedings mainly focus on the following areas: abductive cog-
nition, visualization in science, the cognitive structure of scientific theories, the
nature and functions of models, scientific representation, mathematical represen-
tation in science, model-based reasoning, analogical reasoning, moral cognition,
cognitive niches, and evolution. The various contributions of the book are written
by interdisciplinary researchers who are active in the area of philosophy and/or
cognitive science.

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