The US has experienced a large surge of foreign talent, as evidenced by the large number of international students enrolling each year in the science and engineering fields. Among the foreign countries and economies, China ranks top in the number of doctorate degree recipients from US institutions in the science and engineering fields. This book focuses on studying the epistemological development of Chinese engineering doctoral students who are pursuing degrees in US institutions.

This work stems from my personal interest on the Chinese student population in US and my experiences as one of them through seven years of study in the US. It is certainly not a one-man job. First of all, I want to give thanks to my heavenly Father who sustained me through this work. I would like to give special thanks to my advisor Dr. Monica F. Cox. Her professional guidance and inspirations have encouraged me throughout my doctoral training. She and her husband, Ishbah Cox, have showered wonderful blessings on me and served as role models for me. Deep appreciation goes to professors at the School of Engineering Education and other departments at Purdue University. They offered critical insights, helped me, and worked with me through many big and small steps. They are Dr. Brent Jesiek, Dr. Yating Haller, Dr. William Graziano, Dr. Phillip Wankat, Dr. David Radcliffe, Dr. Ruth Streveler, Dr. Robin Adams, Dr. Alice Pawley, Dr. Donna Ennerson, and many other professors.

Much gratitude goes to staff members at the School of Engineering Education at Purdue University. Their kindness and helpful spirits have been of great encouragement and inspiration to me. They are Ms. Loretta McKinniss, Ms. Tamara Hare, Ms. Cindey Hays, and many others. I would like to also acknowledge the professional guidance from Ms. Cindy Lynch. Also, I want to thank Mr. Joe J.J. Lin for his kind help and valuable feedback on this research. I want to acknowledge Dr. Lifang Zhang who kindly supported this research by sharing the copy of Zhang’s Cognitive Development Inventory. Also, I want to thank all of the participants in this study. It is their help that made this study possible.
Many thanks go to colleagues and classmates at Purdue University and around the world. They include:

Ms. Jeremi London, Mr. Benjamin Ahn, Dr. Rocia Chavela, Dr. Osman Cekic, Dr. Nathan McNeill, Mr. Mark Carnes, Ms. Ming-chien Hsu, and many others.

Still more thanks go out to my friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, who have been loving and supportive throughout my years at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA.

Last but not least, special thanks to my dear mother, who showered me with sacrificial love and kindness. This work would have been impossible without her consistent support.

Shanghai, China

Jiabin Zhu
Understanding Chinese Engineering Doctoral Students in U.S. Institutions
A personal epistemology perspective
Zhu, J.
2017, XV, 190 p. 26 illus., 21 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-981-10-1135-1