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After I received my first Ph.D. degree in 2011 from Zhejiang University in China, I had always been thinking about how to make a contribution to the research field of Argumentation Theory, particularly Pragma-Dialectics, which had attracted my attention when I was carrying out my first dissertation project in China. During my one-year stay as a visiting scholar in Amsterdam from 2013 to 2014, during my weekly academic appointments with Frans van Eemeren, my chief supervisor at that time, I gradually realized that it was necessary for me to receive a systematic and rigorous doctoral education into argumentation theory if I really wanted to do solid works in this research field.

Thanks to Frans van Eemeren and Ton van Haaften's decision to act as my supervisors, I got the opportunity to carry out this doctoral dissertation project at Leiden University. I am grateful to both of them for the careful way in which they supervised my research and for the insightful and constructive suggestions they offered to me in the process.

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