**Four Lectures on Fichte’s Philosophy**

2022

A Summer school held by School of Philosophy at Zhejiang University

**Basic Info:**

**Instructor:** Prof.Andreas Schmidt (University of Jena)

https://www.philosophie.uni-jena.de/arbeitsbereiche/deutscher-idealismus

**Organizer**: Yuyang Zhu (Zhejiang University)

**Teaching Assistant**: Jimi Yingding (Zhejiang University)

**Time:** 2022.7.22、25、27、29, 6.00pm-8.00pm (Beijing time)

**Platform：**Zoom

**Introduction:**

With Fichte’s philosophy one of the most creative periods of German philosophy begins: an era shaped by a rapid succession of philosophical systems whose purpose is to offer a closed system on the basis of Kant’s critical philosophy, but dependent on only one fundamental principle. For this foundation Fichte does not draw on Kant’s theoretical, but on his practical philosophy: “I thus assert the primacy of reason, insofar as it is practical. Everything springs from action, the action of the I.” It is the aim of these lectures to offer an introduction to Fichte’s thought. I will begin by covering his methodological writings in some detail, in order to then concentrate on Fichte’s System, as it was developed in his Jena period (1794-1799).

**Schedules：**

22.07.2022

1. Form and Method of the *Science of Knowledge*.

In the first lecture I will address Fichte’s method – a form of transcendental philosophy which builds on Kant - and elucidate the systematic form, which, for Fichte, is ineluctable for any philosophy.

25.07.2022

2. The First Principle of the *Science of Knowledge*.

In this lecture I will indicate how Fichte attempted to systematise Kant’s philosophy by making practical reason the first principle of philosophy – a principle he identifies at the beginning of the *Foundations of the Entire Science of Knowledge* (1794/95) with the “absolute I”.

27.07.2022

3. The *Foundations of the Entire Science of Knowledge*.

This lecture offers an overview of the line of argument in Fichte’s *Foundations of the Entire Science of Knowledge*. I will discuss Fichte’s theory of the “check” (*Anstoß)*, of the imagination and of the infinite striving, as well as their connection to the phenomenon of self-consciousness.

29.07.2022

4. Fichte and Hegel

In this session, after a brief overview of the sub-disciplines Fichte worked on during his time in Jena (1794-1799) (Doctrine of Right, System of Ethics, Philosophy of Religion.), a glimpse will be given of the influence Fichte had on Hegel.