ABSTRACT

Zhu Xi’s lifelong study of the *Great Learning* is well known and it finally came into fruition in his commentary on the text called the *Daxue zhangju*. This paper traces the historical evolution of Zhu Xi’s study of *the Great Learning* and argues that there are five phases in the evolution of Zhu Xi’s annotations about *the Great Learning* and that they correspond to his evolving understanding of *the Great Learning* in Song Confucian thought and in Confucian learning as a whole. It is basically an intellectual historical examination, rather than a philosophical analysis. The fundamental resources I used include the *Daxue zhangju*, *Daxue huowen*, *Zhuzi yulei*, and, of course, the *Zhuzi wenji*. 