

## University of Groningen

### The second sex

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Propositions accompanying the PhD thesis:

**The second sex**  
**Functions and mechanisms of sperm manipulation in**  
**female *Drosophila melanogaster***

Meghan Elizabeth Laturney

1. The development of an adaptation in one sex that influences the reproduction of the other sex applies new pressures to the latter to develop counter-adaptations to reduce such fitness costs (this thesis, Chapter 3 and 4; Moore and Pizarri, 2005)
2. All oppression creates a state of war. And this is no exception (Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*)
3. The neural circuitry supporting sperm ejection in *Drosophila melanogaster* females most likely involves a plastic time-sensitive inhibitory switch that functions to delay ejection, allowing for the modulation of this behaviour (this thesis, Chapter 6; Lee et al., 2015)
4. The neural circuitry regulating sperm ejection is potentially capable of responding to male-produced peptides suggesting that this process is under sexual conflict (this thesis, Chapter 5 and 6)
5. Females can control their post-mating attractiveness, remating behaviour, and patterns of paternity via timing of ejection (this thesis, Chapter 3 and 4)
6. She is too intelligent, too demanding, and too resourceful for anyone to be able to take charge of her entirely (modified from Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*)
7. Observing, measuring, and/or evaluating the influence a female has on her own reproduction in paradigms designed to reduce variation in female mating behaviour limits our ability to fully appreciate her control (this thesis, Chapter 4)
8. Representation of the world, like the world itself, is the work of men; they describe it from their own point of view, which they confuse with absolute truth (Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*)