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The missing link

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PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the PhD thesis entitled

The missing link: Exploring laterality and personality development in two fishes

1. This PhD thesis investigates factors influencing behavioural laterality and personality traits demonstrating developmental plasticity. However, unlike other studies, we have not found a clear link between indices of laterality and personality, suggesting the need for a critical examination and comparison of the methodologies used in this and other studies.
2. Exposure to light during embryogenesis influences the development of laterality in rainbowfish, but only in young fish (Chapter 2). Future studies should include careful monitoring of laterality development in young fish to determine the specific time point during ontogeny when the effects of early light exposure on laterality diminish, providing a clear time window for investigations in underlying neurophysiology.
3. Given the rapid expansion of the aquaculture sector and the growing public expectation for the use of welfare indicators in food production systems, it is imperative that we develop methods to investigate the affective states in fishes (Chapter 5).
4. Laterality research can be a potential tool for influencing and assessing animal welfare in various settings (Chapter 6).
5. Undertaking a double PhD degree of the Netherlands and Australia during a pandemic presented a challenge. It merged the rigorous demands of academic research with international travel restrictions, health concerns, and adapting to rapidly changing research environments. The persistent impacts on mental health, social connections, and education cast doubt on the overall effectiveness of lockdown measures.

6. "All oppression leads to conflict." - Simone de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" (1949). Despite the advancements in technology and societal progress, oppression continues to persist, underscoring the fact that even scientific and technological progress has not eradicated systemic injustices around the world.
7. The art of communication is as an essential tool in science as it is in many other aspects of society.
8. Engaging in volunteer work with marginalized individuals within society can profoundly enrich one's heart and foster a deeper appreciation for life. However, volunteer work, without a strong multidisciplinary team from the government addressing the root of the problem, may not be fully effective in the long term.