

Abstract

Simone de Beauvoir wrote a revolutionary book *The Second Sex* in which she discusses the position of a woman in society from a philosophical perspective. She defines her as the Second, as an object against a man, who is a subject. She explains that “woman” is a social construct which was created by a man. In my thesis I introduce these central ideas, including the context of time she has written the book in. Next, I discuss the work of other philosophers – namely Plato, Emmanuel Lévinas and Iris Marion Young. In their writings I focus on their characterization of women and their lives and I introduce the key elements in which they agree with Simone de Beauvoir. Plato holds the position of a man from the past, Emmanuel Lévinas was a contemporary of de Beauvoir and Iris Marion Young, who is a current philosopher. I also introduce other problems discussed in feminist philosophy and which have been coined since the time de Beauvoir wrote her book. These new problems are introduced from the work of Iris Marion Young. Finally, I contemplate who the woman could be, when she sets herself free.