

## CONTENTS

Abstract		1
Chapter 1	General Introduction	13
Chapter 2	Scope of the Study	31
Chapter 3	Rumen eukaryotes are the main phenotypic risk factors for larger methane emissions in dairy cattle	35
Chapter 4	Structural equation models to disentangle the biological relationship between microbiota and complex traits: Methane production in dairy cattle as a case of study	65
Chapter 5	Holobiont effect accounts for more methane emission variance than the additive and microbiome effects on dairy cattle	95
Chapter 6	A dimensional reduction approach to modulate the core ruminal microbiome associated to methane emissions via selective breeding	137
Chapter 7	General Discussion	171
Chapter 8	Conclusions	187