



Gender Dynamics in Political Power Transitions: A Critical African Perspective

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Abstract

Recent political transitions in South Africa have highlighted significant gender dynamics within power structures. A critical review approach was employed to analyse existing literature and secondary data related to gender and political power transitions in South Africa. The analysis revealed that women's representation in leadership roles increased modestly but remained significantly underrepresented compared to their male counterparts, with a notable trend towards more female participation in lower-level positions rather than higher executive roles. While there have been some improvements, the persistence of gender biases and systemic barriers continues to impede full gender parity within political power structures in South Africa. Further research should focus on understanding the underlying factors contributing to these dynamics and developing targeted interventions aimed at promoting greater female participation and leadership across all levels of governance.

Keywords: *African geography, Gender studies, Power dynamics, Political science, Critical theory, Feminist perspectives, Transition analysis*

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