



Gender and Power Dynamics in South African Political Transitions: A Comparative Exploration

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Abstract

This study examines gender dynamics in South African political transitions by comparing historical and contemporary data. Qualitative analysis of primary and secondary sources including government documents, media reports, and expert interviews from various sectors. Findings indicate that women hold approximately 35% of parliamentary seats but are underrepresented in cabinet positions, with a notable increase since the early 2000s. Despite progress, persistent gender disparities persist in South African political leadership, necessitating continued policy interventions to enhance female representation and influence. Recommendation for policymakers is the implementation of targeted quotas and mentorship programmes to boost women's involvement in politics.

Keywords: *African geography, Gender studies, Power dynamics, Political sociology, Qualitative analysis, Comparative methods, Historical perspectives*

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