



# Gender and Power Dynamics in Ethiopian Political Transitions: An Ethnographic Exploration

Yared Aberra<sup>1,2</sup>, Dawit Negusse<sup>3</sup>, Mekonnen Mengiste<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Mekelle University

<sup>2</sup> Hawassa University

<sup>3</sup> Mekelle University

<sup>4</sup> Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU)

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**Correspondence:** [yaberra@yahoo.com](mailto:yaberra@yahoo.com)

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## Author notes

*Yared Aberra is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Mekelle University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Dawit Negusse is affiliated with Mekelle University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Mekonnen Mengiste is affiliated with Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

This study explores gender dynamics within political transitions in Ethiopia, a country undergoing significant socio-political changes. Qualitative research methods were employed, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions among a diverse sample of stakeholders including politicians, civil society members, and traditional leaders. Data collection took place over an academic year in urban and rural settings across Ethiopia. Women constituted approximately 25% of elected officials in the most recent political transition, indicating a modest but growing presence in leadership roles compared to historical data. The ethnographic study reveals that while women's participation has increased, power imbalances persist and are influenced by cultural norms and institutional barriers. Power dynamics remain predominantly male-dominated. Recommendations include the need for gender-sensitive training programmes for political leaders and civil society organizations to foster inclusive governance practices.

**Keywords:** *African geography, gender studies, power relations, qualitative methods, social anthropology, cultural analysis, ethnohistory*

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