



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

Nonhlanhla Khumalo^{1,2}, Siphon Maseko³

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

² Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

³ Department of Research, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

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Correspondence: nkhumalo@gmail.com

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Author notes

Nonhlanhla Khumalo is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Siphon Maseko is affiliated with Department of Research, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

South Africa has experienced significant political transitions in recent decades, marked by shifts from apartheid to democracy. These transitions have been influenced by gender dynamics and power structures. The research employs qualitative analysis, drawing from historical documents, interviews, and secondary data sources. A case-by-case approach is used for both pre- and post-transition periods to compare gendered power dynamics. Analysis reveals that women's participation in leadership positions increased significantly during the transition period, though their representation remains relatively low compared to men's influence. The study underscores the importance of gender inclusivity in political transitions and highlights the need for continued efforts towards achieving balanced power structures. Policy makers are encouraged to integrate gender perspectives into political strategies and ensure equitable participation of all genders in governance processes.

Keywords: *Africanization, Critical Theory, Feminist Methodology, Gender Studies, Intersectionality, Power Structures, Postcolonialism*

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