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# Female Representation In Parliament A Case Study From

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## MICHAELA HANA

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### **Representation of Women. A Case Study of the Parliament of Lesotho**

LAP Lambert Academic Publishing

The study intends to be an opportunity for a comparison that provides indications and starting points for reflection and a more in depth analysis with the common goal to increase the participation of women in institutions and the mechanisms that forge political choices.

### **The Impact of Gender Quotas**

University of Hawaii Press

This work discusses questions on political participation, representation and legitimacy in the European Union national parliaments. Three major empirical questions structure the book: What affects women's presence in parliaments?, Does the number of women in parliament have an effect? And are women in parliament representing women? Empirical evidences show that institutional reforms need a 'minimal environment' in terms of socio-economic development so as to prove effective. As opposed to the critical mass theory, claiming that a few representatives cannot have an impact on the political outcomes, here the empirical evidences suggest that smaller groups can also influence the different components of the legislative process. The last part turns to the fundamental question of whether a parliament that is descriptively representative, i.e. in which the parliamentarians share certain characteristics with the voters, also is a substantively descriptive parliament, i.e. in which the parliamentarians mirror the voters' opinions.

### **Women Members in the Indian Parliament**

Palgrave MacMillan

This book studies the proportion of women in national parliaments. More precisely, it seeks to identify the factors that influence the percentage of female parliamentarians, paying particular attention to the electoral system. The author seeks to understand a profound political movement, that of the third wave of democratization of political systems, through the particular perspective of female representation in parliaments. Although several books have been published on women in politics, none

have focused on electoral systems as an explanation for the proportion of women in national parliaments.

### **Representing Women in Parliament**

Oxford University Press

Inhaltsangabe:Abstract: During the 1970s female political representation in mainstream politics increased. The reason was the interaction of several factors, namely the explosion in education, the continuing urbanisation, and especially the women's movement. More and more women became party members and stood for candidacy, however this politicization effect was not reflected in the number of women elected. This situation is more marked in Britain than in West Germany. Percentage figures for elected candidates and party members underline this: About 50 percent of all British party members are female (in contrast to only about 25 percent in Germany) but only 9,2 percent are represented in Parliament. (While in Germany it is 20,4 percent). More and more women in both countries stand for candidacy, but the percentage of female representatives in Britain has remained constant since 1964 (only the last election showed an increase), while in the Federal Republic (since 1972) there is a slight but steady increase. How do we explain this? First it is important to ask whether it matters that in a democracy women or any other group are greatly underrepresented, so long as all Members of Parliament are chosen in free and fair elections. Women constitute more than half of the population. With 20,4 percent in the West German Parliament and 9,2 in the British, this half is extremely underrepresented. (Women share this problem with blue-collar workers, with older people and young people. Proponents of the first view argue that the deficit of women in Parliament (and in all other political offices, especially the senior ones) contradicts the equality provision of the Basic Law/Constitution. It is a well known fact that women in political decision making bodies are rare. Yet, this view does not give any explanations as to why the representation of women in politics should be "adequate", which would mean political positions held by women at least according to their party membership if not according to the female population rate, hence 50:50. Why should there not be, for instance, 70 percent women in Parliament or in other positions? Another view holds that women and men have

different political interests because of gender-based differentiations throughout the social structure. Female exclusion from or underrepresentation in political activities therefore means that women's interests are poorly represented. Implicit in this Position is the assumption that women [...]

*A Survey of Women and Men in Parliaments* Cambridge University Press

The introduction of legislation aimed at decreasing gender imbalances in Mauritius has not led to an increase in women's access to parliament. While Mauritius is not unique in this, it is an interesting case to examine because Mauritius prides itself on being a leader in Africa as a democratic and strong middle-income country that has achieved success in many socio-economic areas. But Mauritius is faced with a paradox: despite its abundance of gender-related legislation, it is lagging behind in gender equality at the national level, as manifest by the few women in parliament. Regarding this issue, little research has been done to examine the challenges of translating legislative gains into actual change. Albie Sachs, former judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa (2002), summarizes the Mauritian case by stating: Mauritius can justly be proud of the admiration which its democratic life enjoys internationally. It cannot, however, hold up its head in terms of participation of women in political life. When half the population ends up with only a one-twentieth share of representation, it manifests a grave democratic deficit (as cited in Athal, 2012, p. 17). This thesis examines why legal and legislative gains in gender equality in Mauritius have not translated into greater representation of women in parliament. The thesis will answer the specific question: What are the main factors that have limited women's representation in parliament in Mauritius?

### **Female Representation in the European Parliament and in the Member States of the Union**

Routledge

Explains how weakly institutionalized and male-dominant parties undermine descriptive representation in Brazil's OLPR legislative elections.

*Government at a Glance 2021* University of Illinois Press

The ability of a small elite of highly educated, upper-class Asian

women to obtain the highest political positions in their country is unmatched elsewhere in the world and deserves study. But there is a marked lack of relevant research as well as of comprehensive and user-friendly texts. Aiming to fill the gap is this timely and important study of the various obstacles and opportunities for women's political participation and representation in Asia.

### **A comparison between Britain and West Germany**

International Idea

Seven decades after India's independence women members occupy 1 in 10 seats in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. In analysing women's limited presence in the Indian Parliament, *Performing Representation* breaks new ground in scholarship on gender and politics. It explores the possibilities and limits of parliamentary democracy and the participation of women in its institutional performances. This book offers new insights into the gendered nature of the performance, aesthetics, and norms of parliamentary life through an examination of electoral data, legislative debates, and life stories of women MPs. The authors avoid both the framing of women MPs either simply as challengers of masculinized institutional politics or only as docile actors in a gendered institution. Making a strong case for taking parliamentary politics seriously in these times of populism, the book raises critical questions about the politics of difference, claim-making, representation, and intersectionality and addresses these as part of global feminist debates on the importance of the women's representation in political institutions.

*Women Members in the Indian Parliament* Routledge

Namibia's goal by 2020 is to achieve 50/50 representation of men and women at all levels of decision making. With only 24.4% of its parliament being represented by women, Namibia is far from achieving that goal. The purposes of this case study were to examine the reasons behind Namibia's imbalanced representation of women in political decision making and identify actions that the government and people of Namibia can take to close the gender gap in political representation. This study used in-depth interviews with 8 purposefully selected Namibian members of parliament, 4 men and 4 women, and a review of parliamentary records and media reports. Results revealed that women face sizable obstacles in seeking election to parliament, in spite of laws and policies to promote gender equality and women's rights. Recommendations include building women's leadership capacity,

demanding accountability from political parties, and reforming laws. The study should provide evidence for advocates and legislators to work for attitudinal changes, eliminating barriers, and reforming electoral law to foster women's equal political representation and improve the conditions of women.

*A Reader* Routledge

Just as Latin American countries began to transition to democracy in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the region also saw gains in social, cultural and economic gender equality. In accordance with modernization theories, women in the region have also made significant inroads into elected office. However, these gains vary a great deal between countries in Latin America. They also vary significantly at different levels of government even within the same country. Inside government arenas, representation is highly gendered with rules and norms that advantage men and disadvantage women, limiting women's access to full political power. While one might expect these variations to map onto socioeconomic and cultural conditions within each country, they don't correlate. This book makes, for the first time, a comprehensive comparison of gender and representation across the region -- in seven countries -- and at five different levels: the presidency, cabinets, national legislatures, political parties, and subnational governments. Overall, it argues that gender inequality in political representation in Latin America is rooted in democratic institutions and the democratic challenges and political crises facing the region. Institutions and political context not only influence the number of women and men elected to office, but also what they do once in office, the degree of power to which they gain access, and how their presence and actions influence democracy and society, more broadly. Drawing on the expertise of scholars of women, gender, and political institutions, this book is the most comprehensive analysis of women's representation in Latin America to date, and an important resource for research on women's representation worldwide. The causes, consequences, and challenges to women's representation in Latin America are not unique to that region, and the book uses Latin American patterns to draw broad conclusions about gendered representation in other areas of the world.

*The Representation of Women in Canadian Governments* Springer  
This Brief discusses the adoption of the mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral system in New Zealand and its

subsequent effect on representation for women. Concerns about the homogeneity of the legislature under the Single Member Plurality electoral system and the need for increased representativeness and greater proportionality of party preference lead to the changeover in 1996. The book addresses the question of whether an increase in descriptive representation for women in New Zealand's House of Representatives has translated to policy outcomes that are beneficial to them. It also examines the extent to which female MPs meet the expectation that they will act for members of their groups; pushing minority and gender-friendly legislation and policies into the political arena. Finally, it raises questions about where women are found in New Zealand's decision making bodies and what influence they might have on policy outcomes. The first book to examine the effects of the MMP system on female descriptive and substantive representation using a case study analysis, this Brief adds to the literature on electoral systems and women's political representation. This book will be of use to political science students at both the undergraduate and graduate level, particularly those interested in electoral studies, political institutions, politics and gender, and minority representation.

### **An Analysis of the Causes of Low Representation of Women in Parliament in Zambia** Oxford University Press

Breaking new ground in scholarship on gender and politics, this text presents a comprehensive analysis of women in the Indian parliament. It explores the possibilities and limits of parliamentary democracy and the participation of women in its institutional performances. Offering a new, multi-method analysis of the gendered nature of India's parliament through an examination of electoral data, media reports and life stories of women Members of Parliament it sheds light on the performance, aesthetics, and norms of parliamentary life. It explores how the gendered axis of power underpins the performance of parliament and its Members as well as the political economy in which they are embedded.

### **Challenging Parties, Changing Parliaments** Springer

Electoral gender quotas have emerged as one of the most critical political reforms of the last two decades, having now been introduced in more than 130 countries worldwide. The recent and global nature of these developments has sparked both scholarly and popular interest in the in which these quotas are designed, as well as their origins and effects. This volume seeks to expand

these existing agendas to forge new directions in research on gender quotas and political representation. The topics considered include new paths to adoption, as well as – in the wake of quota introduction – changes in the dynamics of candidate selection, the status and role of women in legislative institutions, and the impact that women have on policy-making. Expanding the scope of quota studies, the contributions also address trends in different political parties and different levels of government, the effectiveness of quotas in democratic and non-democratic settings, and whether there might be non-quota mechanisms that could be pursued together with, or in lieu of, gender quotas in order to increase women's political representation. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Representation*.

**Pacific Women in Politics** Routledge

Representing Women in Parliament A Comparative Study Routledge

*Equality in Politics* Springer

Although the international press closely chronicled the dismantling of South Africa's apartheid policies, it paid little attention to the unique role women from a variety of political parties played in establishing the new government. Utilizing interviews, participant observation, and archival research, *Women in the South African Parliament* tells an inspiring story of liberation, showing how these women achieved electoral success, learned to work with lifelong enemies, and began to transform Parliament by creating more space for women's voices during a critical time in the life of their democracy. Arguing from her detailed analysis of the strategies and political tactics used by these South African women, both individually and collectively, Hannah Britton contends that, contrary claims in earlier studies of the developing world, mobilization by women prior to a transition to democracy can lead to gains after the transition—including improvements in constitutional mandates, party politics, and representation. At the same time, Britton demonstrates that not even national leadership can ensure power for all women and that many who were elected to South Africa's first democratic parliament declined to run again, feeling they could have a greater impact working in their own communities.

**New Directions in Research** Representing Women in Parliament A Comparative Study

An eyewitness account by a U.S. diplomat of Russia's brazen

attempt to undo the democratic revolution in Ukraine Told from the perspective of a U.S. diplomat in Kiev, this book is the true story of Ukraine's anti-corruption revolution in 2013–14, Russia's intervention and invasion of that nation, and the limited role played by the United States. It puts into a readable narrative the previously unpublished reporting by seasoned U.S. diplomatic and military professionals, a wealth of information on Ukrainian high-level and street-level politics, a broad analysis of the international context, and vivid descriptions of people and places in Ukraine during the EuroMaidan Revolution. The book also counters Russia's disinformation narratives about the revolution and America's role in it. While focusing on a single country during a dramatic three-year period, the book's universal themes—among them, truth versus lies, democracy versus autocracy—possess a broader urgency for our times. That urgency burns particularly hot for the United States and all other countries that are the targets of Russia's cyber warfare and other forms of political skullduggery. From his posting in U.S. Embassy Kiev (2012–14), the author observed and reported first-hand on the EuroMaidan Revolution that wrested power from corrupt pro-Kremlin Ukrainian autocrat Viktor Yanukovich. The book also details Russia's attempt to abort the Ukrainian revolution through threats, economic pressure, lies, and intimidation. When all of that failed, the Kremlin exacted revenge by annexing Ukraine's territory of Crimea and fomenting and sustaining a hybrid war in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 13,000 people and continues to this day. *Ukraine's Revolt, Russia's Revenge* is based on the author's own observations and the multitude of reports of his Embassy colleagues who were eyewitnesses to a crucial event in contemporary history.

*Political Empowerment of Women* LAP Lambert Academic Publishing

Asking why some politicians succeed in moving into the highest offices of state while others fail, this text examines the relative lack of women, black and working class Members of Parliament, and whether this evident social bias matters for political representation.

**Europe since 1945** Routledge

This updated edition of *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers Handbook* covers the ground of women's access to the legislature in three steps: It looks into the obstacles women confront when

entering Parliament be they political, socio-economic or ideological and psychological. It presents solutions to overcome these obstacles, such as changing electoral systems and introducing quotas, and it details strategies for women to influence politics once they are elected to parliament, an institution which is traditionally male dominated. The first *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers* handbook was produced as part of IDEA's work on women and political participation in 1998. Since its release in English in 1998, there has been an ongoing interest and demand for the handbook, and responding to the request for the translation of the handbook, IDEA has produced Spanish, French and Indonesian language versions and a Russian overview of the handbook during 2002-2003. Since the first handbook was published, the picture regarding women's political participation has slowly changed. Overall the past decade has seen gradual progress with regard to women's presence in national parliaments. This second edition incorporates relevant global changes in the past years presenting new and updated case studies.--

*Money, Power and Representation in Comparative Perspective* ECPR Press

This book explains the high level of current concern for the under-representation of women in politics.

*Women's Representation in Parliament* OECD Publishing

This study investigated the causes of low representation of women in Parliament in Zambia and the SSA region. The study wanted to establish the causes that perpetuate low representation of women in Parliament and how they may be mitigated. Nowadays, society should reflect on the equal involvement of women and men in all decision-making processes. The involvement of both sexes in socio-economic and political roles assists in providing suitable responses to the challenges society faces such as hunger, poverty, disease, illiteracy and wars. From a development perspective, the non-involvement of women in decision-making positions particularly policy formulation is a misnomer. Gender participation is an essential element of development because views of both sexes should be reflected in all pertinent political and socio-economic decisions. Despite the outcry for scaling up of numbers of women representation in the legislative bodies, their numbers have remained relatively low in the SSA region (20%). Therefore, there is need to investigate the



causes of low representation of women in Parliament in Zambia and the SSA region. This is meant to provide a mitigation measure to this perennial challenge in the sub-region. This study was guided by the following specific research questions it asked women respondents: Which causes hinder women from being elected as Members of Parliament (MPs)? How is the effectiveness of women in comparison with men when representing their constituents? What mitigation measures can be used to enhance women representation in Parliament? This study reviewed the literature on the causes known to hinder women's representation in Parliament in SSA contexts. This was done to get the overview of the problem of low women representation in Parliament in the sub-region. Thereafter, a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of women to men representation of constituents was also reviewed. The potential measures to enhance women representation in Parliament were discussed as well. This study employed a research design that was a combination of, firstly, a desk review of secondary sources about the evidence of women

representation in Parliament in SSA countries, Zambia and the factors contributing and hindering women representation. Secondly, the use of primary data collected through qualitative email and/or phone semi-structured interviews from women respondents. Primary data were collected from 37 women respondents who consisted of 10 current Members of Parliament, 8 former Members of Parliament, 3 former candidates in parliamentary elections, 4 Women Civil Society Organisations representatives and 12 representatives from political parties with representation in Parliament. While sources of secondary data were diverse sources of documents or electronically stored information such as scientific peer-reviewed journals from various sources. Our study revealed that women representation in Parliament was hindered by several social, political, economic and cultural causes. These causes were making it literally difficult for women to sell or project themselves for leadership roles in society in SSA. This study also established that although women were hindered by several causes, when given an opportunity to work they have proved to be more effective than men. Women

disposition of care makes them much more suitable for poverty alleviation. This study further found that the causes of low women representation in Parliament in Zambia and SSA, could be mitigated by instituting measures. These measures could be effectively implemented if they were in phases and categorised. Conclusively, it may be said that this study has surfaced several causes of low representation of women in Parliament in Zambia. Our study also suggested ways in which these causes could be mitigated. These mitigation measures require that solutions are categorised so that it is easy to monitor and evaluate their progress. Our study, therefore, recommends for instituting of short and long-term mitigation measures accordingly. The short-term measures would be changing of electoral systems by the implementation of proportional representation and affirmative action policies in national elections (parity principles and quota system). Whereas long-term measures would require investment in the education of girls using affirmative action policies in education.

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