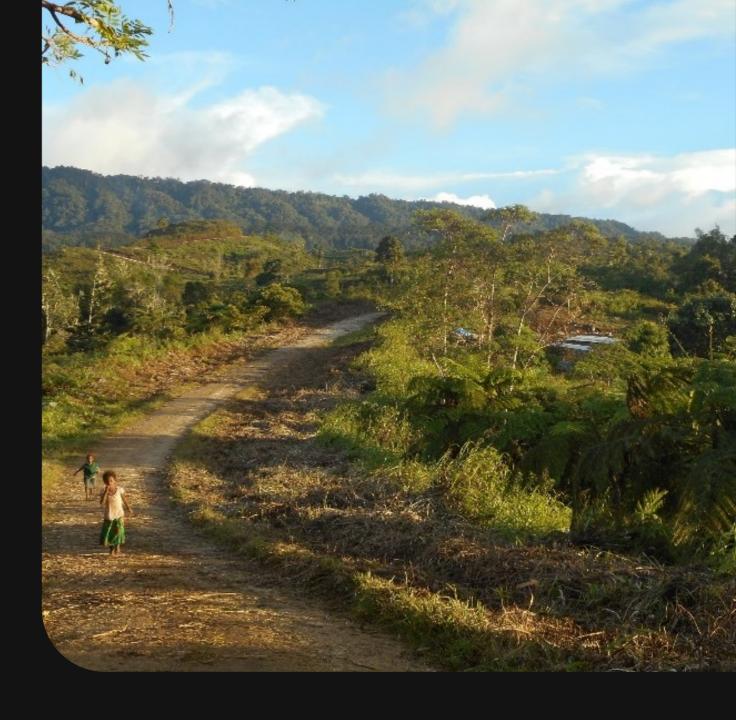
WOMEN'S
INFLUENCE IN
DECISIONMAKING IN NEW
IRELAND, PAPUA
NEW GUINEA



Almah Tararia, October 2025



BACKGROUND-My motivation and interest in this study and field site – watching women at political events









HOW AND FROM WHERE DO WOMEN DERIVE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE AND WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OR THE CONTEXTS, IN WHICH THEY DO SO?

RESEARCH PROCESS: SITE





CAPTURING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE THROUGH IN-DEPTH ETHNOGRAPHY





CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1) IDENTIFYING ACTS OF INFLUENCE WOMEN'S INFLUENCE AS 'BEHIND THE SCENES' (MAETALA, 2008; MONSON, 2010; HOWARD, 2019)

2) IDENTIFYING CONTEXTS SPHERES OF INFLUENCE (SEPOE, 1998)

3) EXPLAINING INFLUENCE
POSITION, RELATIONALITY, KNOWLEDGE
ASPLES, TAMBU, WAIRA



Defining influence

Women act to extend/defend their interests



Spheres of Influence



Formal

Informa

Explaining influence





Tambu

Waira

Asples

FINDINGS

- ACTS OF INFLUENCE



- Speaking up/choosing to keep silent
- Silence is not about lack of authority
- Dispersing resources
- Advising others
- Defending kastam
- Bringing women together

FINDINGS

EXPLAINING INFLUENCE



- Place absence and connection
- Respect earned, not a given

Knowledge – of norms and practice

Space – to be heard



Reflections/Questions