

WOMEN'S INFLUENCE IN DECISION- MAKING IN NEW IRELAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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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



Women of Influence



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



Informa
|



Semi-formal



Formal

Explaining influence



Asples



Tambu



Waira

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**



women act to extend/derend their interests

Reflections/Questions