



October 30, 2014

Department of Government

"The Effects of Mixed Member Proportional Electoral System on the political representation of women and ethnic minorities: A case study of women and Maori in New Zealand"

Electoral reform in New Zealand has resulted in increased numerical representation for women in parliament. However, despite these numerical gains, there remains the question of whose interests female Members of Parliament represent once in parliament. This study assesses the extent to which the increased presence of female legislators in New Zealand's House of Representatives is likely to facilitate and improve the level of representation of women's interests and concerns. It does so by examining the extent to which female MPs "speak" or "act" on behalf of women's issues in two areas of the legislative process: agenda setting and policy outcomes. This will be done through a discourse analysis of four parliamentary bills that can be considered 'women's issues'---the Domestic Violence Bill of 1994; the Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Bill 2008; the Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Paid Parental Leave) Amendment Bill of 2001; and the Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Paid Parental Leave for Self-Employed Persons) Bill 2005. To complement and strengthen the findings from the discourse analysis, semi-structured in-depth telephone interviews were also conducted with seven (7) female MPs who sat in New Zealand's House of Representatives between 1996 and 2008.

Speaker

Dr. Tracy-Ann
Johnson-Myers

ROOM SR4

TIME

2:30 PM

Graduate
Research
Seminar