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Khumalo, Enhle Lucinda

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1. Abstract

A Comparative Analysis between the Representations of Black Women and Black Men in Political Leadership in the South African Media.

In an ever shifting world the study of gender is an expanding field. However, there remains wide knowledge voids within academia around theories of representation and media framing. This is especially important in contemporary times where our daily lives are centered on media access. Moreover, since knowledge and information are increasingly available through the media, it is imperative to study gender representation through the media frame. This research project investigates the many gendered representations of black women in political leadership in South Africa. These various representations of black women in political leadership by the media are compared to some of the representations of black men in political leadership. The knowledge void which relates to black women in comparison to black men in political leadership in the South African media is thoroughly studied. Finally, the project seeks to understand the relationship the media have with female leaders as a representation of the scene of 'womanhood' or what it means to be a black woman leader in a patriarchal society.