

Battling with Patriarchy: Political Sexuality and Gender Democracy in Nigeria

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Abstract : This paper examines political sexuality as an identity construct, which imparts on democratic practices globally. The manifestation of political sexuality reflect on the dynamics of social, economic, cultural and political relations among different gender affecting a number of issues, such as the questions of citizenship, poverty alleviation, property rights, ownership and inheritance, rights to sexual consent, polygamous marriage, governance and representation among other issues. This paper is concerned with the aspect of political participation among different genders in Nigeria. This paper posit that political sexuality is an outcome of 'sexuality differences', which seeks to glorify and gratify the superiority of a particular sexuality over another. Political sexuality, therefore, motivate and exacerbate socio-cultural, economic, and political struggles among different sexualities. The paper asserts further that majority of women have been discriminated, sexually harassed, and are often denied certain rights and privileges in Nigeria. A few number of women who have found themselves at the corridors of government have used the Beijing protocol on Women to demand for 'affirmative action' to expand their political space. It contends that the 'affirmative action' in Nigeria is far from achieving it throughout the country. The paper conclude that women require more than just a 'self-rediscovery' to assertively demand for a more and proper inclusion in Nigeria's democratic process.

Keywords : gender democracy, identity, politics, political sexuality

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