

Title of Article: Gender Relations and Democracy in Nigeria

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Outlet: African Journal of Arts and Cultural Studies (AJAC) 1(1) 1-21..

Date: 2011

Abstract: This paper is drawn from a study on women political participation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. The imperative of popular participation to democratic governance has raised intense academic discourse on the political alienation of women across the globe. In spite of the increasing agitations for gender equality and a national gender policy that demands 35% involvement of women in all governance processes in Nigeria, women though witnessed some marginal increase following the demise of military rule in 1999, the 2011 general elections confirmed the continuous marginalization of women on the Nigeria's political landscape. Of the factors explored, findings reveal that lack of internal democracy in most Nigeria's political parties, socioeconomic factor, cultural heritage, political acrimony and institutional designs are responsible for women's dismal political participation of women in Nigeria will only be superficial unless the structural factors that limit women's political empowerment in the country are addressed.