

# WHEN ETHNICITY BEATS GENDER: QUOTAS AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

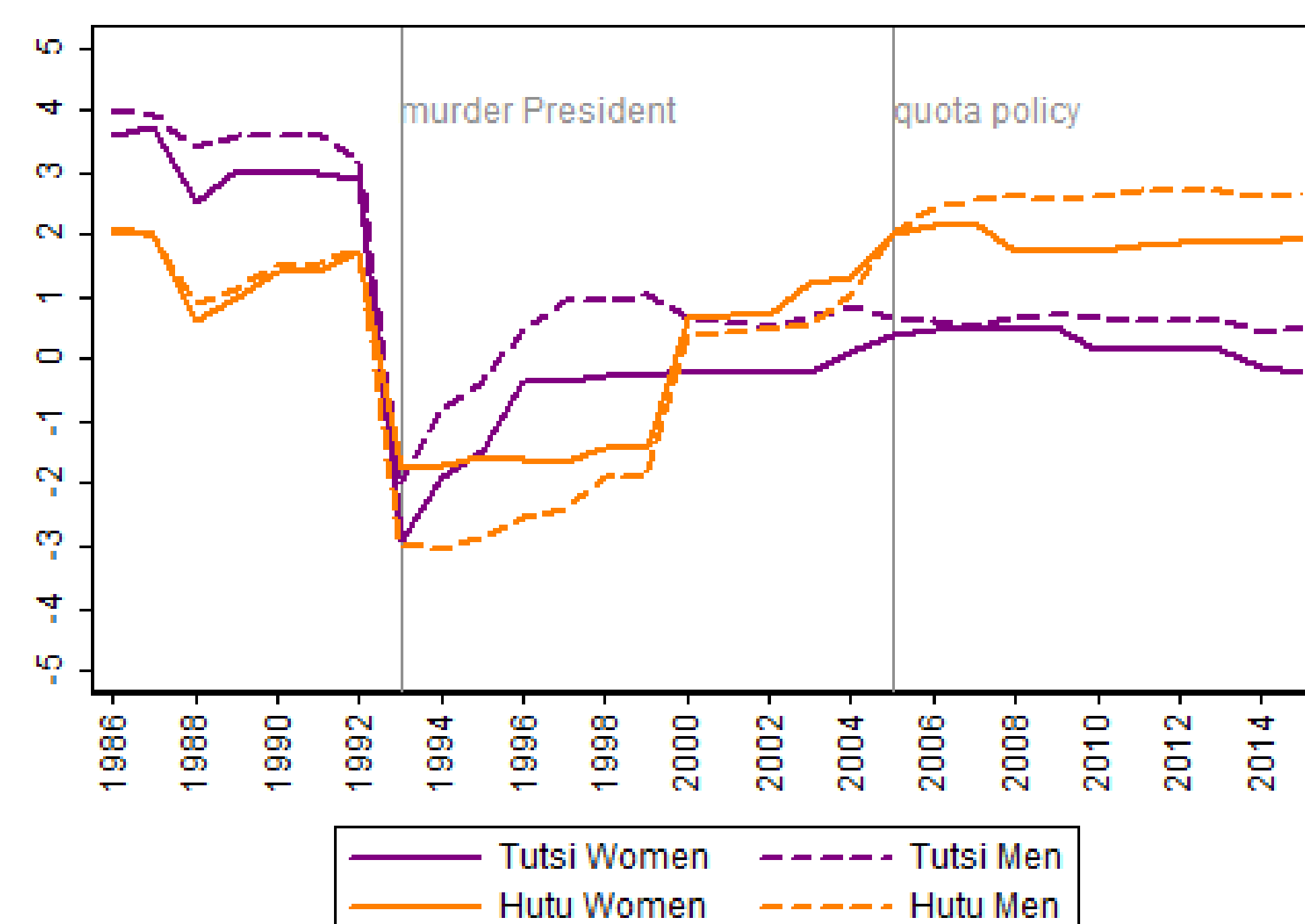
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## Abstract

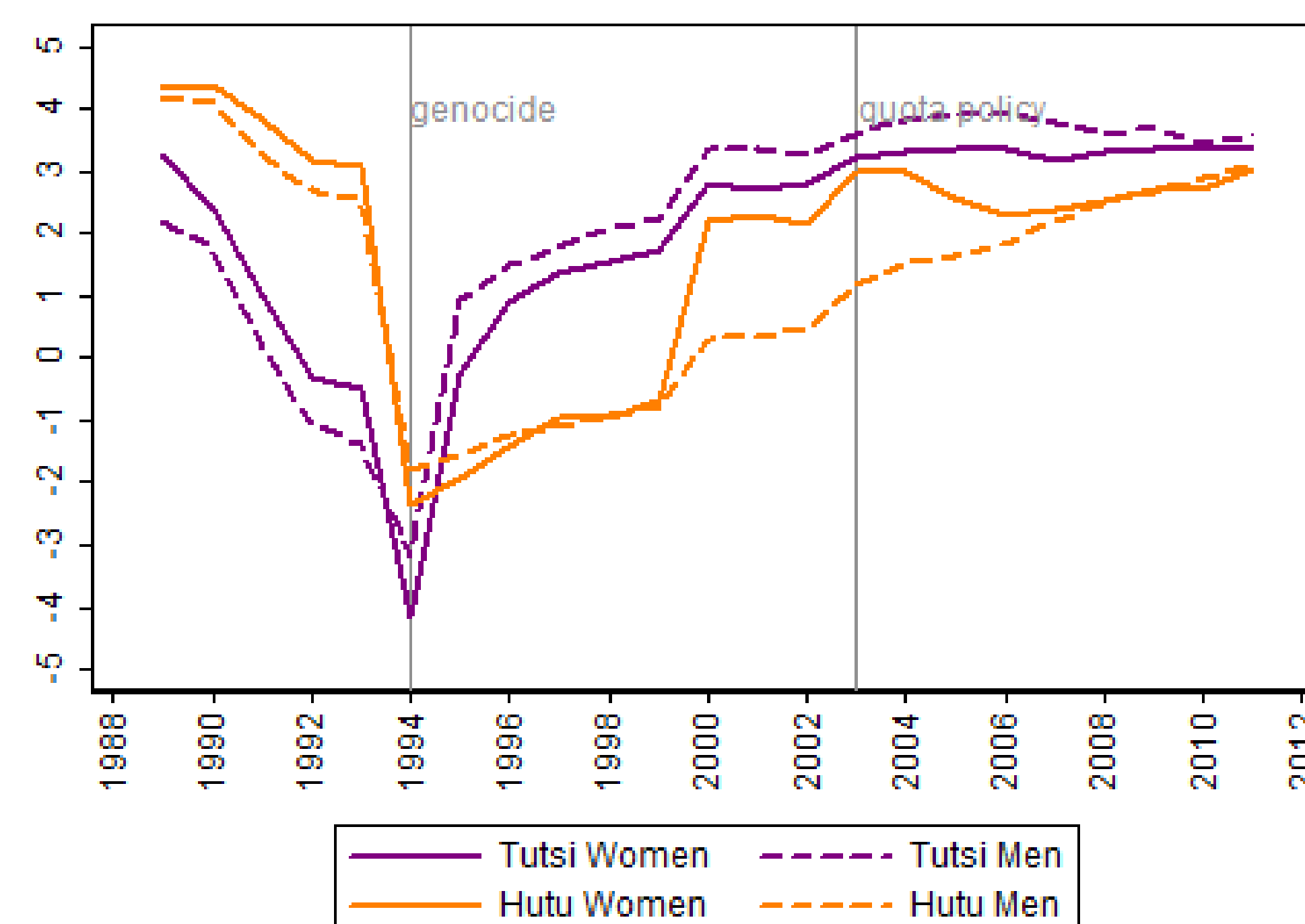
This article studies the impact of electoral gender quotas in post-war Burundi and Rwanda on women's political representation. Results show that, both in Rwanda and Burundi, the number of female political representatives significantly increased with the introduction of gender quotas, with their share in parliament and ministries consistently exceeding 30 per cent. While women disproportionately end up in ministries of relatively lower prestige, the gap with men has been closing over time, as more women have joined the executive branches of power. The study considers whether such an increase has been accompanied by a positive evolution in the way ordinary women perceive their political representation. Despite a general improvement in perceived political representation across the population, the article finds there is not a significant difference between women and men and it explains this finding by analysing the intersectionality of ethnicity and gender.

–Perceived political representation as reported in life stories, by gender and ethnicity

A. Burundi, 1994–2015



A. Rwanda, 1995–2011



Source: Based on the life story rankings of 302 traced Burundian respondents (235 women) and 412 traced Rwandan respondents (260 men and 152 women).

## Keywords

1. Female political representation
2. Gender quota
3. Rwanda
4. Burundi
5. Life histories

## Output so far

- Guariso A., Ingelaere B. and Verpoorten M. (2018). [When Ethnicity Beats Gender: Quotas and Political Representation in Rwanda and Burundi](#). Development and Change.
- Ingelaere B., Guariso A. and Verpoorten M. (2018). [Political representation : ethnicity trumps gender in Burundi and Rwanda](#). The Conversation.
- Guariso, A., Ingelaere, B. & Verpoorten, M. (2017) [Female political representation in the aftermath of ethnic violence: A comparative analysis of Burundi and Rwanda](#). UNU-WIDER commissioned paper

## More information

 <https://www.uantwerpen.be/bert-ingelaere>

## Timeline & funding

- UNU-WIDER