

**ABSTRACT:** This text plans investigation on how some variables may affect the amount of interest that men and women declare to have for political matters. Not only interest will be assessed, but also political action, participation and success in the electoral process. The main objective is to set an approach that can estimate and compare the differences of each variable and its influence on the political behaviour of men and women alike. Much evidence corroborates that women receive less political opportunities than their counterparts from the opposite sex do. Hence, first section of the text exposes the general problem of gender gaps in politics. The subsequent section condenses some arguments brought by the Literature to explain those political disparities. It also explores some limits to these arguments. Finally, there is an outline of a research proposal to investigate further the whys of the differences, and its continuity. The data to support the research origins from two surveys fielded in Brazil, and its analysis may use Generalized Linear Models. Based on comparative evidences, and on an initial discussion of the Literature, the text puts some strain on the boundaries of institutional analysis, of contextual analysis and on the concept of political culture. It tries to contribute to the field by proposing an approach to explain gender political differences based on Rational Choice Theory that can encompass individual constraints to political action. Among the constraints to be studied, there is data about having a partner or not, having children or not, the age of children, having to take care of the household or not, and how domestic tasks are divided at home.

**Key words:** *survey; generalized linear model; political behaviour; political representation; political participation; elections; Brazil; gender*

## **1. Persistência da desigualdade política: uma breve introdução ao tema e sua relevância para a representação política das mulheres**

As taxas de alfabetização, a média de anos de escolaridade e os níveis educacionais aumentaram significativamente entre as mulheres nas últimas décadas. Ao mesmo tempo, as mulheres assumiram um papel significativo no mercado de trabalho. Apesar disso, sua representação entre chefes de estado, governo e membros do parlamento permanece baixa em relação à sua significância na população. As mulheres ainda não foram capazes de alcançar posições de poder da mesma maneira que os homens. Nomes como Theresa May,