

## **An abstract of the PhD thesis: Relations between the government and women's non-governmental organizations in Tanzania**

Since the 1990s, Tanzanian NGOs advocating women's rights have been involved in creating space for social activity and have sought to become independent of centralized authority. Despite reprisals, they have also criticized the ruling party and gradually pursued their goals. The current political situation is, however, considered as unfavorable for maintaining friendly relations with the non-governmental sector and destructive to the previous achievements of NGOs. In addition, the subject literature reveals the narration that local NGOs are often accused of marginalizing the real needs of the groups that they represent in favor of the agenda of international donors. These accusations are important as they undermine the autonomy and professionalism of the non-governmental sector, and also suggest that Tanzanian NGOs only adapt strategies developed by external institutions. The above observations have served as a reference point for conducting research and preparing this PhD thesis.

The PhD thesis presents the activities of urban women's movements, an analysis of their profiles of activities evolution, and their role in the political sphere on the example of Tanzania. Special attention has also been paid to the contemporary discourse regarding the Tanzanian non-governmental sector and the political sphere which has led to questions about the state of relations between them. The following research hypothesis was formulated: non-governmental organizations which advocate equality remain autonomous towards the government thanks to the forms of advocacy that they practice. In addition, four research questions have been specified; such as: how do women's movements perceive the political sphere in the state and whether they treat it as an opportunity or as a limitation on their activity? What situations are recognized by women's movements as conducive to cooperation and/or resistance to government actions? Who constructs the contemporary discourse on women's rights in the public sphere within the state? Are these women's movements or rather external donors (like the UN or other foreign donors)? And what is the nature of the relationship between women's NGOs and other institutions, i.e., representatives of state authority, academia, the business sphere and donors?

In this PhD thesis social constructivism was adopted as the main theoretical perspective. Much attention has also been paid to the agent-structure problem in three dialectical models, i.e., the structural constructivism of Pierre Bourdieu and the structuration theory of Anthony Giddens; the strategic-relational approach of Bob Jessop and Colin Hay; and the morphogenetic approach proposed by Margaret Archer. The adaptation of the constructivist approach along with the theoretical perspectives indicated above is reflected in the methodology used in this work. Qualitative methods were used to conduct the research, such as: semi-structured and in-depth interviews; focused interviews; participant observation. Then, the analysis of data was based on the following research tools and techniques: a critical analysis of existing sources; content analysis; and the Grounded Theory Method. The research began from a critical analysis of the existing sources and content analysis, which made it possible to acquire a basic knowledge on the subject. Then, field research in Tanzania was conducted twice; in September 2015 and September – October 2016. This research was financed under a grant from the National Science Center – PRELUDIUM 9, number 2015/17/N/HS5/00408 and a grant from the Competition of Internal Research Projects at the University of Wroclaw, number 1385/M/ISM/15. The work also includes quantitative data developed by the Pan-African research network – Afrobarometer.

The work consists of an introduction, five chapters and a concluding part. It also includes a scenario of in-depth interviews. The introduction presents the subject of the PhD thesis. Then, the focus is concentrated on those definitions that are considered as crucial for understanding the interdependence between the non-governmental sector and the political sphere in Tanzania. Next, the goals, the hypothesis and research questions are formulated; with the theoretical approach as well as the methodology being discussed. Another part is dedicated to the justification for individual choices and a literature review. The first chapter is devoted to a theoretical introduction. The second chapter analyzes the roles of women in African societies. Then, the third chapter analyzes the determinants of NGO sector development in Tanzanian. The fourth chapter is devoted to the presentation of the Tanzanian women's movement and the fifth part is focused on the relationship between the government and women's non-governmental organizations. In the last part answers to the research questions are formulated as well as an attempt to verify the research hypothesis itself. In addition, conclusions are presented regarding the relations between non-governmental organizations advocating equality and the political

sphere in Tanzania. The last part included also observations about the relations between women's movements and donors, academia and the business sphere.

19.04.2019 Anne Cicheche