

**Politics and Gender: Orienting Questions and Theses**  
**Anth 2240 / Week 11 – 12**

Orienting Questions

- Is political egalitarianism possible? Where?
- Must we distinguish between the domestic and public spheres of life in order to give women political power?
- Do men always hold political power? (Even when women have the political title?)
- Is it true what they say: “Behind Every Great Man is a Woman”?
  - Is this a statement of the power of women or the inequality of power distribution?
- Do women with power reflect societies with more rights for women?

Theses

- In almost all societies, women control less political power than men
- Women have, however, significant *influence*
  - But, not all women (nor men, for that matters) have political power or influence
- Political egalitarianism may exist
  - Particularly in association with economic egalitarianism of the kinds we have already discussed

**Bertha Louie's Speech at Hok'ats Łuwe Menh, British Columbia  
July 24, 2004**

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Tad

1        If I could ask Bertha Louie to come up please  
2        with her daughter Annabel  
3        And her grandchildren Ashton, Chas, and Laine.

Annabel

4        Huey [gestures husband to come up]

Bertha

5        My name's Bertha Louie.  
6        I am the thirteenth child of Antoine Louie and Annie Louie.  
7        Both my parents have survived in this country by hunting and trapping.  
8        It's an honour to set foot on the land that my family, my parents, and my brothers,  
9        All my older siblings that survive on this land.  
10       It's a beautiful country.  
11       I always wanted to come here.  
12       And I finally did.  
13       I would like to welcome each and everyone of you here that share this moment with us.  
14       It's a beautiful moment.  
15       It's a wonderful day.  
16       And I also would like to thank Ray Collingwood and his brother Reg  
17       That acknowledged our ancestors and decided to a lot of hard work  
18       And all those who helped put this together.  
19       It's a wonderful place to be.  
20       And it's really good to see where my ancestors survived on this land.  
21       From Metsantan to here and back to Telegraph.  
22       And I also have few of my mom's handcrafts that I brought along with me for viewing.  
23       These moccasins I have on,  
24       She made that.  
25       And I just couldn't believe how beautiful this country is.  
26       First time for me.  
27       I always wanted to come here.  
28       It's a pleasure to have my grandkids here.  
29       To walk the land that my family survived on.  
30       And at the moment, I know all our ancestors are gone in the spirit world.  
31       But in spirit they are here with us.  
32       So esba Madeleine.                    [Auntie Madeleine]  
33       Esba gahline.                         [Auntie's husband]  
34       Mom and dad ...

**Louis Louie's Speech at Hok'ats Luwe Menh, British Columbia  
July 24, 2004**

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1 Good afternoon  
2 ladies and gentlemen, elders and children.  
3 We are home at last.  
4 After forty years absent from our home,  
5 we have returned.  
    This is the land of the *Tlogot'ine*.<sup>1</sup>  
    Our forefathers has held this land for us  
    and it's one outfitter that came in here in the first place  
    and say we had no claim to this land.  
10 We made him look good.  
I hate to speak ill of the dead,  
but the truth gotta be known.  
It gotta be straightened out  
that we were the first people here.  
15 You look around on the trails,  
you'll find obsidian.  
Arrowheads.  
My son worked,  
my two sons worked for the parks  
20 a couple of years back  
And they brought a lot of arrowheads home.  
And we can return.  
We gotta preserve for our future generations  
so they can come back here  
25 and celebrate like we done now.  
And they are going to be in partnership with various groups of people in here,  
so that we will always be connected to this great land.  
    I spend ten years here guiding for these people in here.  
    And it's not because of the money.  
30 I make better money working on the construction on the highway.  
I was makin' \$25,  
but me and my five brothers  
came back here every summer,  
in August,  
35 for the country  
and for the lifestyle.  
We was making \$250 a month,  
compared to \$2500 we made on the highway.  
Just for the land.  
40 And we all gotta remember our elders who have passed on before us.  
Like Peter Dennis  
who spent 30 or 40 years guiding in this outfit.

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<sup>1</sup> *Tlogot'ine* means People of the Long Grass (Teit 1912-1915; Jenness 1937; also Sheppard 1983). *Tlogo* is long grass and *t'ine* is people.

Jim Peters cooked for them.  
 Husband of Jenny Quock.  
 45 All the grand children are here.  
 Charles, Charles Quock. [Wind picks up]  
 Charlie Abou. [Inaudible because of wind; 8s]  
 ... only one who stayed behind with Tommy Walker  
 [Inaudible due to wind; 3s]

during the winter,  
 50 and guided with Tommy Walker.  
 There was one of my colleagues,  
 told me just this morning  
 wanting to get a meeting scheduled.  
 He ... say that the Tahltan has no connection to this land,  
 55 which is not true.  
 If it wasn't for our people  
 I doubt Tommy Walker would have ever reached this place.  
 And it's one of our elders that passed on too  
 he brought here.  
 60 He brought him here.  
 He was only eighteen at the time.  
 You see,  
 Tommy Walker had a lot of influence in Victoria at that time.  
 He got someone in there  
 65 with a lot of decision making on his behalf.  
 And when he went through Caribou Hide  
 and Metsantan  
 and all over here,  
 there was a lot of people  
 70 who thought he was the first white man.  
 There was numerous white man before Tommy Walker got here.  
 [wind subsides]  
 Hyland Post  
 and all those people up in this region.  
 Why Tommy Walker did don't want us in here  
 75 was because he saw us as competition  
 for the wildlife in this country  
 Where we live by it  
 and our forefathers lived by it too.  
 That's why they call us the nomads  
 80 because we don't stay one place.  
 We always move with the migration of the animals.  
 Now that we settle down  
 we still get lonesome for this land.  
 And I ... [sentence unfinished]

85 maybe it's really good idea that we can pause for a minute of silence for all of our  
 elders.  
 [Pause 13 seconds]  
 I'm sure all our elders looking at us today  
 are really glad we've come down  
 to reclaim our place in this land.  
 And I would like to thank Ray Collingwood

90 and all those who were involved.  
Sally Havard.  
And Danielle [Boissevain].  
It took a lot of hard work to make this possible.  
To make this a huge success.

95 We have more speeches coming on  
and it's getting hot in this blanket.  
Let's keep it very short.  
Thank-you.

[Laughter]

**Anth 2240**

**Iskut Political Speeches Worksheet**

In pairs, answer the following questions:

Who are Bertha and Louis speaking for in these speeches? (Who are they representing with their talk?)

What specific political roles or responsibilities are identified in each speech? (Think in terms of traditional roles and contemporary roles, men's roles and women's roles.)

Identify the line or lines in each speech that are central to identifying the political authority Louis and Bertha wield.

Identify as many types of audiences as possible. What role does the audience play in political events like these?