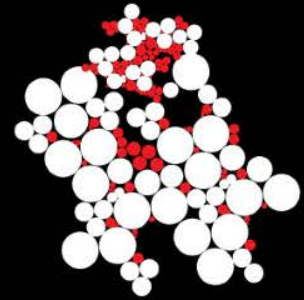


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ACROSS TRADITIONS AND MODERNITY
THE ASANTE WOMAN'S ACCESS TO LAND

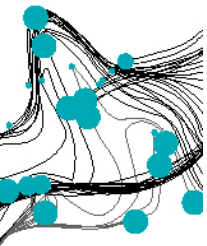
by

Kwabena Obeng Asiama
Seth Opuni Asiama

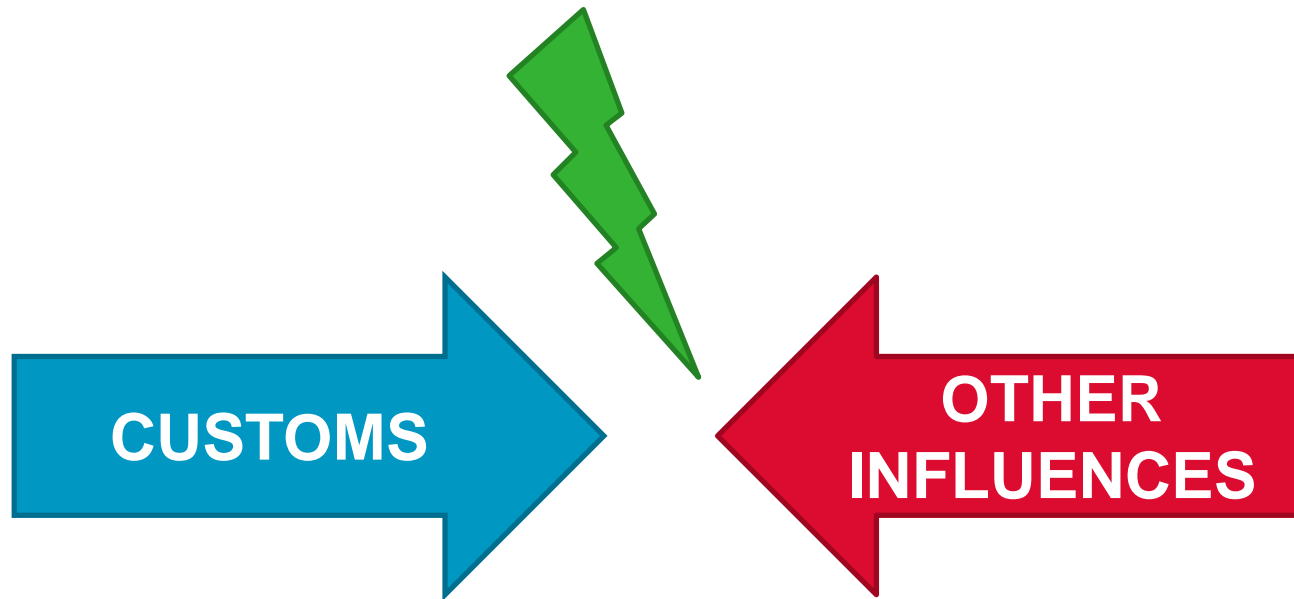


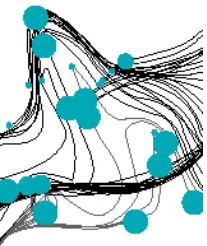
LANDac Annual International Conference 2018
Utrecht, 28-29 June, 2018





SETTING THE SCENE



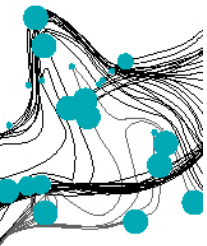


SETTING THE SCENE



- Neglect for certain important parts of the customary system.
- The push to change one aspect of the system.
- Individual vs communal interest



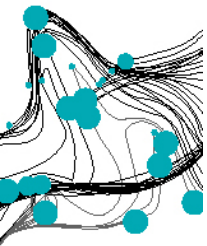


THE CASE OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

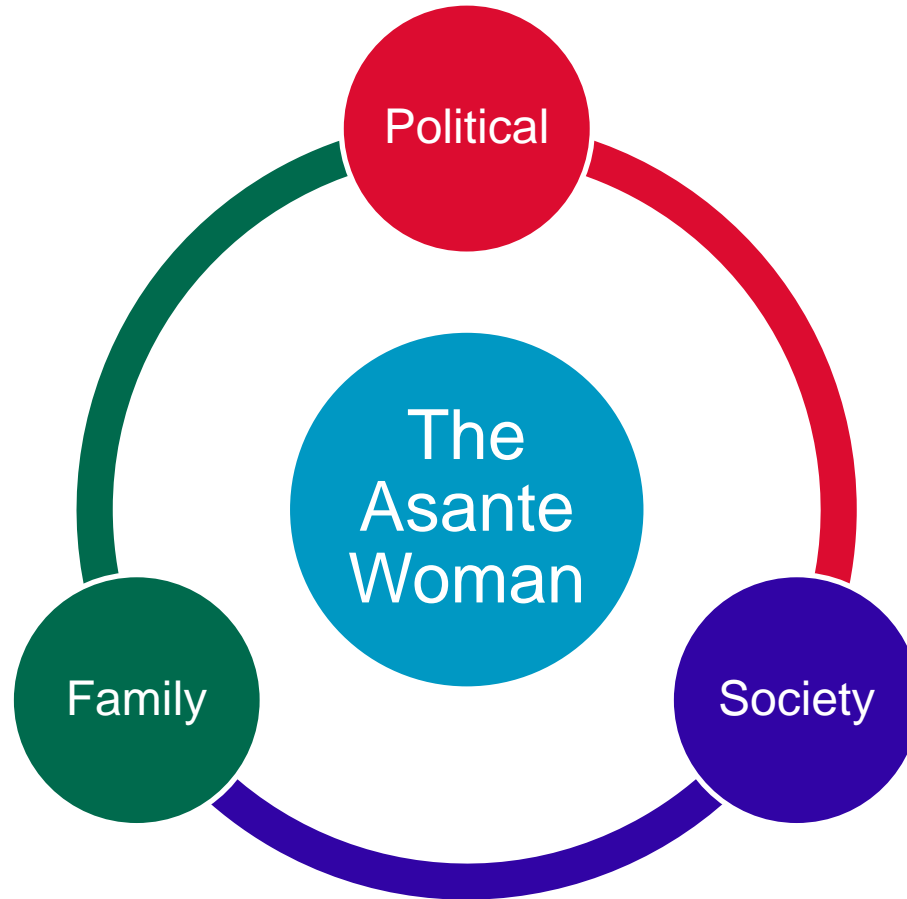


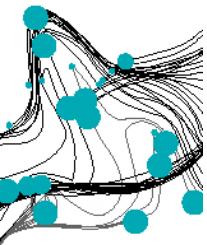
- The Status of the Asante Woman
- Land Tenure in Asante
- The Effect of Modernisation
- Land Acquisition in Ghana
- Implication of Tenure System for Women





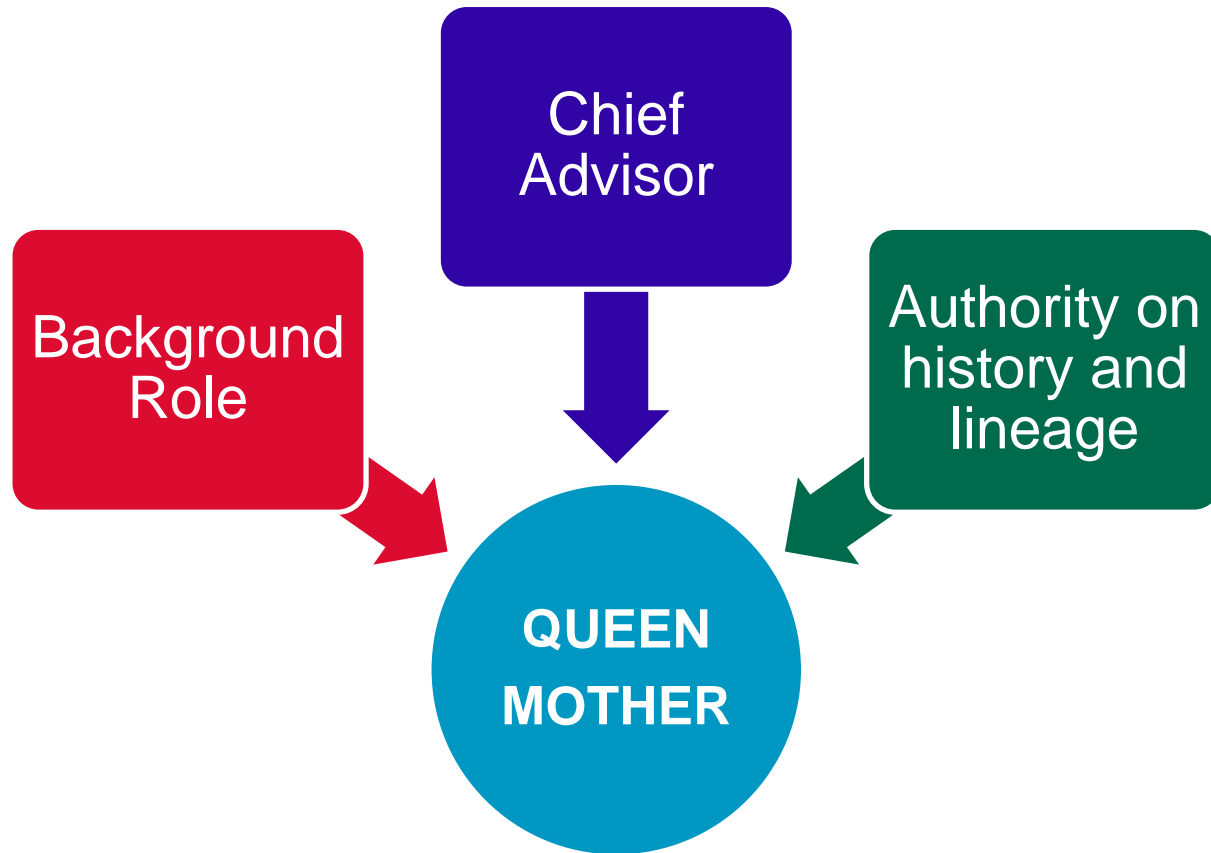
THE STATUS OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

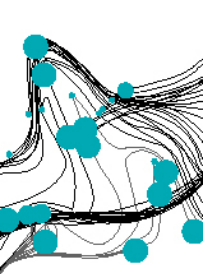




THE STATUS OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

POLITICAL SYSTEM



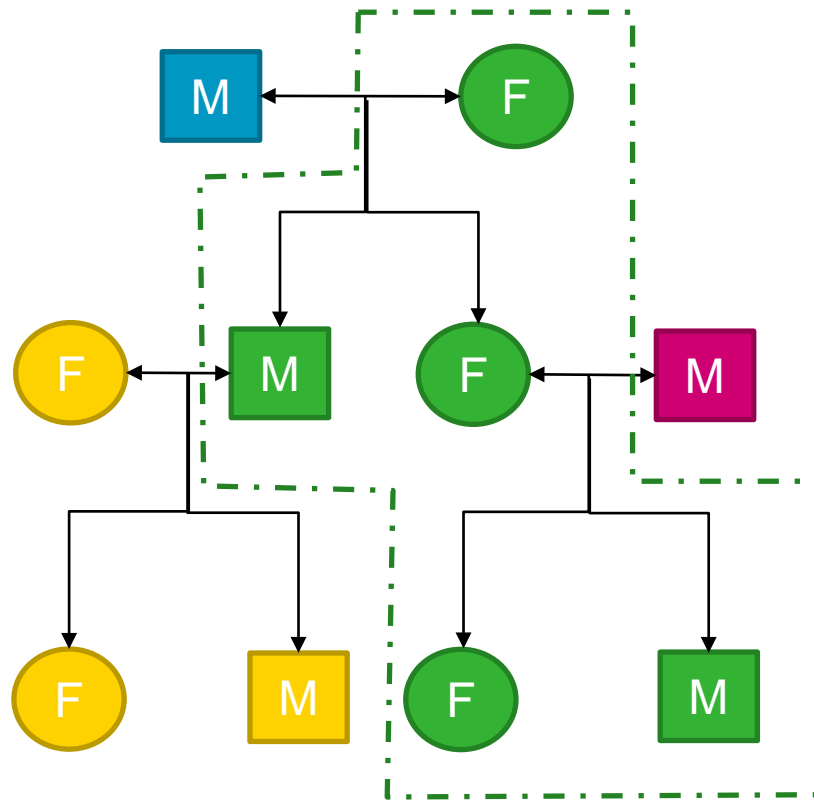


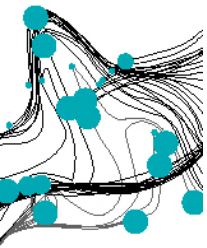
THE STATUS OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

FAMILY AND INHERITANCE



The basic unit of the society





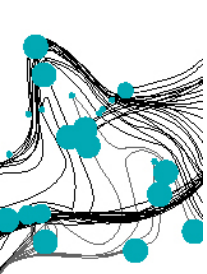
THE STATUS OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

FAMILY AND INHERITANCE



- Individual property reverts to the family
- Managed by the family head (male or female)
- Everyone has equal access, but gender roles may play a role
- Marital status is of little importance, children are rather paramount





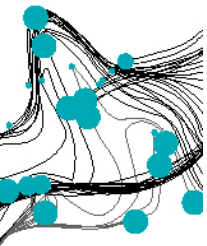
THE STATUS OF THE ASANTE WOMAN

THE SOCIETY



- A complete person
- Economic independence from her husband (Her property remains hers)
- Further support from her uterine family
- Neither a man's society nor a woman's society



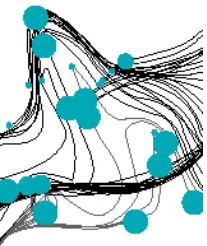


LAND TENURE IN ASANTE



- Land as a spiritual entity (A supernatural female spirit)
- Communally owned to uphold the honour of ancestors
- Promote the prosperity of the kingroup
- Ensure the security of future generations



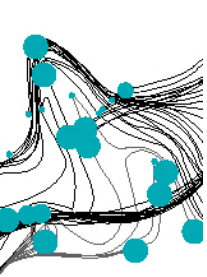


THE EFFECT OF MODERNISATION



- Land as an economic asset
- Conjugal vs. uterine families
- Weakening of kingship ties
- Less support from uterine family





LAND ACQUISITION IN ASANTE



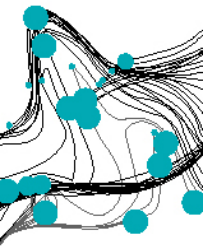
Statutory

- Application to the government
- One per family

Customary

- Through chiefs
- Payment of drink money



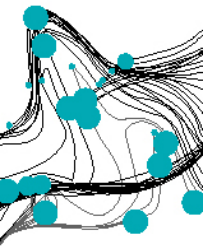


IMPLICATION OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM FOR WOMEN



- A clear land access route (customary and statutory)
- The influence of group vs. individual roles and interests
- Little kinship protection
- Diminishing women's customary status resulting from colonialism and European acculturation
- Land acquisition – from kinship ties to economic muscle
- Subtle discrimination of laws against women
- Economic disability



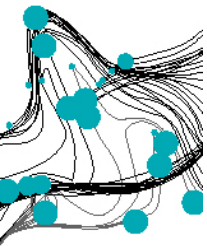


FUTURE TRENDS



- Protective laws (protection from what?)
- More and more educated and commercially minded women
- Secondary education rate of women – 42% (2007) to 52% (2017)
- Uterine families more involved in the land market



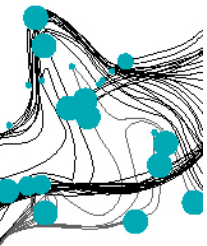


CONCLUSION



- Unfettered by institutional structures
- Advantage in the customary social, cultural and political structures
- Free to take part in land market





RECOMMENDATIONS



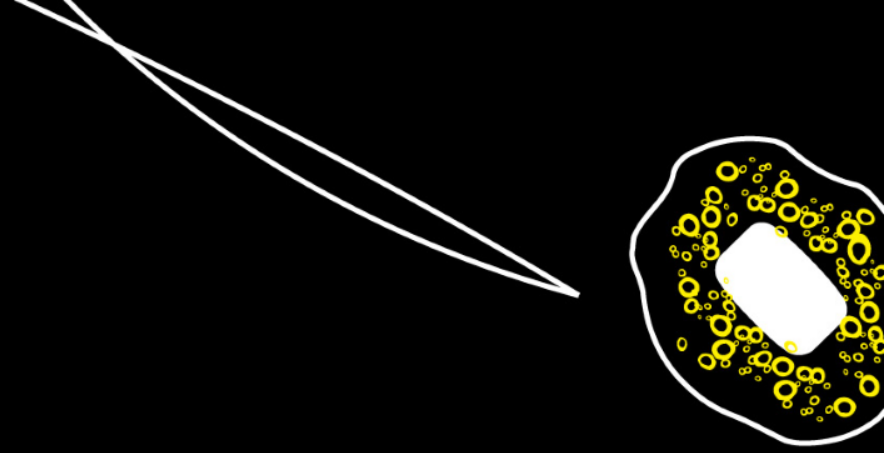
Address her economic disabilities not the land tenure system

Preserve the land tenure system

Enable her to progress within her perception of her socio-political circumstances.



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MANY THANKS

