

Public Lecture: At the Dark End of the Street: Sexual Violence and the Civil Rights Movement - A New History

Dr. Danielle McGuire of Wayne State University visited BGSU on February 3 to give a talk on sexual violence and the civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks is often described as a sweet and reticent elderly woman, whose tired feet caused her to defy segregation on Montgomery's city busses, and whose supposedly solitary, spontaneous act sparked the 1955 boycott that gave birth to the civil rights movement. The truth of who Rosa Parks was and what really lay beneath the 1955 boycott is far different than anything previously written. Dr. Danielle McGuire will be here to talk about her work on Rosa Parks, sexual violence and the civil rights movement.

Dr. McGuire is an Assistant Professor of History at Wayne State University in Detroit and author of *At The Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* (Knopf, 2010). Her 2004 essay, "'It Was like All of Us Had Been Raped:’ Sexualized Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle" (*The Journal of American History* 91.3, December 2004) won the Organization of American Historians' Louis Pelzer Memorial Award for the best graduate student essay. It went on to win the A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for southern women's history, and was reprinted in the *Best Essays in American History* 2006.

At the Dark End of the Street, published in September 2010, refigures the history of the civil rights movement as the history of black women's resistance to and testimony about sexualized violence.