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## Western Social Science

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# Racism, Oligarchy and Contentious Bermuda

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[Andrea Dean](#)

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### Degree

Master of Arts

### Program

Sociology

### Supervisor

Dr. Anton Allahar

### Abstract

In 1959, 'blacks' in Bermuda boycotted the island's movie theaters in protest over segregated seating practices. By all accounts this was one of the most significant episodes of contentious politics in Bermuda, challenging social norms that had been in existence for 350 years and the outcomes of 'black' Bermudians' transgressive social protest. As predicted, this analysis uses racism, oligarchy and contentious politics tools to illuminate the social mechanisms and processes that

formal racial segregation in Bermuda after less than three weeks of violent collective action. Content analyses of the documentary records of Bermuda's two main newspapers in 1959 provide insight into how the media informed Bermuda's desegregation experience, and highlight the role of media power and political contention in social inequality and social change.

### Recommended Citation

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