February 26, 2012: unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin was fatally shot by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida. August 9, 2014: unarmed teenager Michael Brown was fatally shot by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri. These are just two instances of violent death suffered by young Black men in a tragic continuum that mars our nation’s history.

On February 27, as part of NJIT’s observance of Black History Month, Marsha Coleman-Adebayo will discuss the shootings of Martin and Brown in the context of racism in America, past and present. She will also speak about the tide of protest following Brown’s death — a call for accountability that she has helped to voice as coordinator for the Washington-based Hands Up Coalition DC, an organization dedicated to the struggle to ensure that “Black Lives Matter.” In this capacity, Coleman-Adebayo has been instrumental in pressing the widely expressed demand that the Department of Justice release the findings of its investigation into Brown’s death and pursue appropriate legal action.

Coleman-Adebayo, author of No FEAR: A Whistleblower’s Triumph Over Corruption and Retaliation at the EPA, received her B.A. from Barnard College and a Ph.D. from MIT. While working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she exposed how a U.S. multinational corporation endangered vanadium miners. Her successful lawsuit led to the passage of a landmark whistleblower-protection law: the Notification of Federal Employees Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act).

In addition to her Hands Up Coalition DC affiliation (www.handsupcoalitiondc.com), Coleman-Adebayo is director of transparency and accountability for the Green Shadow Cabinet and serves on the advisory board of ExposeFacts.com.

For More Information: Contact Jay Kappraff, jay.m.kappraff@njit.edu or 973-596-3490

Co-sponsors: Albert Dorman Honors College, NJIT Educational Opportunity Program, Sigma Xi

The entire NJIT community is invited to attend.