

DR. TIFFANY G. B. PACKER

Dr. Tiffany G. B. Packer is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Florida A&M University. A 2012 graduate of University of North Carolina Greensboro, she is the creator of the project K(no)w Justice, K(no)w Peace (KJKP) which reminds its audiences of the humanity of victims of state violence and demonstrates the impact of historical interpretation in public settings. The only exhibit of its kind KJKP is visited by thousands and engages college students as curators and as leaders; they facilitate local panel discussions on police brutality and its effects on communities of color.

Dr. Packer is the recipient of the American Historical Association 2018 Equity Award. This award is bestowed annually upon individuals and institutions who have demonstrated an exceptional record in the recruitment and retention of students and new faculty from racial and ethnic groups under represented within the historical professions.



DR. SARAH LEWIS

Dr. Sarah Lewis is a scholar activist of the highest quality. Receiving her PhD in Art History from Yale University in 2015, she is an assistant professor in the African and African American Studies and in Art and Architectural History at Harvard. A highly renowned scholar already, she incorporates into her life's work the importance of art and justice. Her work includes scholarly articles and motivational writings for public audiences. She has given a TED talk and many community-based speeches. An art historian, she writes for the academic sector as well as for a public readership as is demonstrated by her successful anthology, *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery* (2014). *The Rise* has been described as a rich trove of reflections not just on creativity but on the too-often ignored role that failure and surrender play in almost any ambitious undertaking.

Dr. Lewis combines art history and social justice and teaches her students to understand the historic roots and contemporary outgrowth of the crucial function of visual literacy for justice in American civic life, for example, her award-winning "Vision & Justice" issue of the photography journal *Aperture* (May 2016). The *New York Times* review of this issue celebrates this issue as an amazing compilation by various contributors, including Lewis, who speak on the meaning and role of visual imagery in African American history.

Her activism was showcased in a stellar way, when she hosted a conference this spring at Harvard called *Vision and Justice: A Creative Convening*. Having been the recipient of a large grant from the Ford Foundation, Lewis' conference on April 25-26, 2019 featured how the question of justice relates to past and present image-making of African Americans by ourselves and others. Her concern with the political and cultural manifestations of visuality dominated the presenters talks. Their presentations explored and generated public engagement with ideas and activities that will further work in art and justice around the country, e.g. sessions on Race, Justice, and the Environment, Monuments, Cultural Narratives and Media, and Mass Incarceration. The program included a star-studded array of speakers and topics, including Darren Walker of the Ford Foundation and Elizabeth Alexander of the Mellon Foundation; a performance by Carrie Mae Weems; a conversation about the Central Park Five, the forthcoming miniseries by Ava DuVernay and Bradford Young, with Henry Louis Gates Jr.; a performance by Wynton Marsalis; a talk by Mona Hanna-Attisha, who discovered the Flint, Michigan, water crisis; Jelani Cobb; and the closing keynote by lawyer and director of the Equal Justice Initiative Bryan Stevenson. Through Sarah's vision, the event also launched the inaugural Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize and give a monetary prize annually for the best essay on visual art and justice in the context of racial equity.

