

**SARAH ELIZABETH LEWIS**

John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and  
Associate Professor of African and African American Studies  
Harvard University  
[sarahlewis@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:sarahlewis@fas.harvard.edu)

**EDUCATION**

**Yale University**

Doctorate in History of Art, 2015

**Courtauld Institute of Art**

M.A., History of Art, 2004, *Distinction*, British Marshall Scholar

**Oxford University**

M.Phil. Economic and Social History, 2003, *Distinction*, British Marshall Scholar

**Harvard College**

Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and History of Art and Architecture, 2001  
*Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

**POSITIONS HELD**

- 2022 - Present John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and  
Associate Professor of African and African American Studies  
Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture,  
Department of African and African American Studies
- 2019 - Present Principal Investigator and Founder, Vision & Justice
- 2019-2022 Associate Professor  
Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture,  
Department of African and African American Studies
- 2015-2019 Assistant Professor  
Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture,  
Department of African and African American Studies
- 2014-2015 Dorothy Porter and Charles Harris Wesley Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute,  
Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University
- 2009-2015 Yale University, Critic, School of Art, Painting and Photography Departments, MFA  
Program. Taught “Critical Theory for Artistic Practice,” a graduate seminar (MFA) on  
critical race studies and visual practice
- 2004-2007 The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Curatorial Assistant in the Painting and Sculpture Department (2004-2006)  
Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Photography (2006-2007)

## SELECTED AWARDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP and HONORS

- 2024 Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Pratt Institute  
Commencement Address Speaker
- 2022 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship
- 2022 2022 Arthur Danto/American Society for Aesthetics Prize, American Philosophical Association awarded for “the best paper in the field of aesthetics, broadly understood.”
- 2021 Capella University, Commencement Address Speaker
- 2021 Inaugural Photography Network Book Prize Award for *Carrie Mae Weems* (MIT Press, 2021)
- 2021 Recipient of the Frieze New York Tribute award in honor of Vision & Justice
- 2019 Inaugural Freedom Scholar Award, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), awarded in recognition of work that has a “direct positive impact on the life of African Americans.”
- 2019 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Navin Narayan Memorial Lecture, Harvard University
- 2019 Yale School of Art, Commencement Address Speaker
- 2018 Tanner Lecture in Human Values, Southern Utah University
- 2017 Infinity Award, International Center of Photography, Critical Writing and Research for the “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture*
- 2017 Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture delivered during Harvard College convocation, selected by Harvard student nomination
- 2017 Phi Beta Kappa address, Harvard University chapter, Induction ceremony
- 2016-2017 Faculty Leadership Award, Black Men’s Forum, Harvard College
- 2016 Yale Honorary Degrees Committee, Appointed Member
- 2014 Gold Rush Award from the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation
- 2013 Edward Bouchet Honor Society, Yale University
- 2008, 2012 President Obama’s Arts Policy Committee, Appointed Member
- 2010 Oprah’s Power List
- 2006 Inaugural New Leadership Award Recipient, ArtTable

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books and Edited Collections

*Vision & Justice*. New York: One World/Random House, 2025.

*The Unseen Truth: When Race Changed Sight in America*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2024.

Reviewed by *Kirkus Reviews*.

“Suzanne Nossel Is Heartened by ‘Liberalism as a Way of Life,’” *The New York Times* (July 2024).

Editor, with Christine Garnier. *Carrie Mae Weems*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2021.

Winner of the 2021 Photography Network Book Prize.

Starred review, *Publishers Weekly*.

Reviewed by Nina MacLaughlin for *The Boston Globe* (June 2021), by Allison Conner for *Hyperallergic* (July 2021), and by Manisha Aggarwal-Schifellite for *The Harvard Gazette* (Sept. 2021).

“The Must-Read Books of Summer 2021,” *Town & Country* (June 2021).

“Carrie Mae Weems and the Long History of Collective Self-Institutionalization Among Black Radicals,” by Thomas J. Lax, *Lit Hub* (June 2021).

“A new book about the photographer Carrie Mae Weems, an MIT scientist’s warning about a popular chemical, and a virtual poetry festival in Cambridge,” by Nina MacLaughlin, *The Boston Globe* (June 2021).

“The Stunning Scope of Carrie Mae Weems’s Vision,” by Allison Conner, *Hyperallergic* (July 2021).

“Interview: How Carrie Mae Weems Takes Up Space,” *Zora* (Aug. 2021).

“Giving Carrie Mae Weems her due,” by Manisha Aggarwal-Schifellite, *The Harvard Gazette* (Sept. 2021).

*Vision & Justice: A Civic Curriculum*. New York: Aperture, April 2019. [A publication to coincide with the 2019 Vision & Justice Convening at Harvard University]

Editor, “Vision & Justice” Special Issue, *Aperture* 223 (2016).

Winner of the 2017 Infinity Award, International Center of Photography, Critical Writing and Research.

Selected as one of the best books of 2016, *ARTNews*.

Made required reading at NYU Tisch School of the Arts for all incoming freshman in 2016.

Reviewed by Lucia De Stefani for *TIME* (May 2016), by Sandra Stevenson for *The New York*

*Times* (June 2016), by James Estrin for *The New York Times Lens Blog* (May 2016), by Ralph Gardner, Jr. for *The Wall Street Journal* (May 2016), by Rebecca Carroll for *The Los Angeles Times* (May 2016), by Priscilla Frank for *The Huffington Post* (June 2016), and by Winslow Laroche for *VICE Magazine* (May 2016).

“Reclaiming the Photographic Narrative of African Americans,” *The New York Times* (May 2016).

“Addressing the Representation of Black Culture in Photography,” by Lucia de Stefani, *TIME* (May 2016).

“How Photography Can Transform Social Justice In America,” by Diana Budds, *Fast Company* (May 2016).

“We are bearing witness to a profound moment in black culture, Aperture shows,” by Rebecca Carroll, *Los Angeles Times* (May 2016).

“Aperture Photos, ‘Vision & Justice’ Issue,” *The Wall Street Journal* (May 2016).

“Magazine Photos Give a New Sense Of African-American Lives,” by Ralph Gardner, Jr., *The Wall Street Journal* (May 2016).

“Curating a visual record,” by Jill Radsken, *The Harvard Gazette* (June 2016).

“These Images of the Black Experience Offer a Corrective to the Lily-White Photo World,” by Winslow Laroche, *VICE Magazine* (June 2016).

“How Contemporary Photography Is Changing The Image Of Blackness In America,” by Priscilla Frank, *The Huffington Post* (June 2016).

“Celebrating Black Culture with a Careful Eye,” by Sandra Stevenson, *The New York Times* (June 2016).

*The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

Translated into seven languages for markets in Brazil, China, the Netherlands, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Reviewed by Scott A. Sandage for *The New York Times* (April 2014), by A. Roger Ekirch for *The Wall Street Journal* (April 2014), *Publishers Weekly* (Dec. 2013), *Kirkus Reviews* (Jan. 2014), and *The International Review of African American Art*.

Selected as the Provost Reading Selection for the University of Houston, 2015-2016 and Hofstra University, 2017-2018.

“Sports psychology for everyday life,” *NPR's TED Radio Hour Podcast* (Jul. 2024).

“Author Sarah Lewis Interview,” *Late Night with Seth Meyers* (March 2014).

“Book Review: 'The Rise' by Sarah Lewis,” *The Wall Street Journal* (Apr. 2014).

“Epic Fail,” by Scott A. Sandage, *The New York Times* (Apr. 2014).

### Articles, Reviews, Interviews, and Contributions to Books [Peer Reviewed]

“Groundwork: Race and Aesthetics in the Era of Stand Your Ground Law,” in M. Kelly and M. Roelofs, eds., *Black Art and Aesthetics: Relationalities, Interiorities, Reckonings*. London: Bloomsbury, 2023.

“The Arena of Suspension: Carrie Mae Weems, Bryan Stevenson, and the “Ground” in the Stand Your Ground Law Era.” In *Law and Literature*, no. 34 (2022). [online version, 2021]

“Visual studies questionnaire: how do you engage with the visual, and what is its importance in the twenty-first century?” *Visual Studies* 36 (2021): 223-225.

“From Here We Saw What Happened: Carrie Mae Weems and the Practice of Art History,” in S. Lewis with C. Garnier, eds., *Carrie Mae Weems*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2021, 1-6.

“Groundwork: Race and Aesthetics in the Era of Stand Your Ground Law,” in “Blackness” Special Issue, *Art Journal* 79, no. 4 (2020): 92-113.

Winner of the 2022 Arthur Danto/American Society for Aesthetics Prize, American Philosophical Association.

“The Insistent Reveal: Louis Agassiz, Joseph T. Zealy, Carrie Mae Weems, and the Politics of Undress in the Photography of Racial Science,” in I. Barbash, J. Stauffer, and D. Willis, eds., *To Make Their Way in the World: A New History of African Americans Revealed Through Nineteenth-Century Photography*. Cambridge, Mass.: Aperture / Peabody Museum Press, 2020.

Winner of the Arles Historical Book Prize.

“African American Abstraction,” in Eddie Chambers, ed., *The Routledge Companion to African American Art*. New York and London: Routledge, 2019, 159-173.

“The Future Real Conditional: Race and Monuments in the United States,” *October* 165: (2018).

“Bryan Stevenson and Sarah Lewis in Conversation,” in “Prison Nation,” Special Issue, *Aperture* 230 (2018): 21-29.

“The Art of Negotiation,” in Dawoud Bey, ed., *Dawoud Bey: Seeing Deeply: Photographs, 1975-2016*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018.

TIME Magazine’s Best Photo Books title of 2018.

“Love Visual: A Conversation with Haile Gerima,” *Callaloo*, no. 3 (2013): 634-657.

“Unhomed Geographies: The Paintings of Julie Mehretu,” *Callaloo*, no. 1 (2010): 219-22.

“How to See a Work of Art in Total Darkness,” *Nka*, no. 22/23 (2008): 206-7. [Book Review]

## Exhibition Catalogue Essays

“Elizabeth Prophet’s Tools of Sovereignty,” in S. Ganz Blythe, D. Molon, and A. Pickworth, eds., *Nancy Elizabeth Prophet: I Will Not Bend an Inch*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2024.

“Conversation,” in *Deborah Roberts: Twenty Years of Art/Work*. Santa Fe: Radius Books, 2023.

“Just Portraiture: A Legend at 100,” in *Avedon 100*. New York: Gagosian, 2023.

“Introduction,” in Philip Brookman, ed., *Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work, 1940-1950*. Göttingen: Steidl Verlag, 2018.

Best Photo Books of 2018, *The New York Times*.

“Introduction,” in *Hank Willis Thomas: All Things Being Equal*. New York: Aperture, 2018.

“Henry Taylor: The Impossible Present,” in *Henry Taylor*. New York: Rizzoli, 2018.

“Incendiary Acts,” in *Lyle Ashton Harris: The Ektachrome Archive*. New York: Aperture, 2017.

“Mark Bradford: The Art of Productive Dissent,” in C. Bedford and K. Siegel, eds., *Mark Bradford: Tomorrow is Another Day*, New York: Gregory R. Miller & Co., 2017.

“Whitfield Lovell: A Reverence for Ordinary People,” in *Whitfield Lovell: KIN*. New York: Skira Rizzoli, 2016.

“Foreword,” in *Carrie Mae Weems: The Kitchen Table Series*. New York: Matsumoto Editions, 2016. [Selected as one of the “Best Art Books of 2016,” in *The New York Times*.]

*Race, Love, and Labor: New Work from the Center for Photography at Woodstock’s Artist-In-Residency Program*, Exh. Cat. New York: State University of New York Press, 2014.

“Celebration and Critique,” in *Kehinde Wiley*. New York: Rizzoli, 2012.

“Mickalene Thomas: On Beauty,” in *Mickalene Thomas: Origin of the Universe*. Exh. Cat. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2012.

*Romare Bearden: Idea to Realization*. New York: D.C. Moore Gallery, 2011.

“Wangechi Mutu,” in *Re: Collection: Selected Works from The Studio Museum in Harlem*. New York: The Studio Museum in Harlem, 2010.

Sarah Lewis and Daniel Belasco, *The Dissolve: The SITE Santa Fe Eighth International Biennial*, Exh. Cat. New York: Distributed Art Publishers, 2010.

“A Reverence for Ordinary People,” in *Mercy, Patience and Destiny: The Women of Whitfield Lovell’s Tableaux*. Atlanta: Woodruff Arts Center and The Savannah College of Art and Design, 2009.

“Freedom Beyond Fort Monroe,” in Collier Schorr ed. *Freeway Balconies*, Exh. Cat. New

York: Distributed Art Publishers and the Guggenheim Museum, 2008.

“Incendiary Acts,” in Cassandra Coblenz ed. *Lyle Ashton Harris: Blow Up*, Exh. Cat. Scottsdale, AZ: Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Greg Miller & Co., 2008.

“American Idols,” in Deborah Willis ed., *Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraiture from 1865 to the Present*, Exh. Cat. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2007.

“Mark Bradford: The Evidence of Things Not Seen,” in *Street Level*, Exh. Cat. Durham, NC: Duke University Press / The Nasher Museum at Duke University, 2007.

“Boris Achour,” *Notre Histoire: Une Scène Artistique Française Émergente*, Exh. Cat. Paris: Palais du Toyko, 2006.

“Zoe Charlton,” in Thelma Golden ed., *Frequency*, Exh. Cat. New York: The Studio Museum in Harlem, 2005

### Articles and Contributions to Books

“How we learn to see history: A case study at the National Cathedral,” *The Washington Post*, January 14, 2024.

“Tyler Mitchell’s Photography Exhibition in New York Focuses on Family,” *Town & Country Magazine*, October 27, 2021.

“The Vision and Justice Project,” in K. Drew and J. Wortham, eds., *Black Futures*. New York: One World, 2020.

“For Black Suffragists, the Lens Was a Mighty Sword,” *The New York Times*, Special Issue, August 12, 2020.

“Kerry Washington Wants You to Know the Truth,” *Town & Country Magazine*, August 5, 2020. [Interview with Washington and lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union about the documentary, *The Fight*, executive produced by Washington]

“Where Are The Photos of People Dying of Covid?” *The New York Times*, May 1, 2020.

“Romare Bearden: Assembling America,” *The New York Review of Books*, 2020. [Book Review of Mary Schmidt Campbell’s *American Odyssey: The Life and Work of Romare Bearden*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018].

“The Racial Bias Built into Photography,” *The New York Times*, April 25, 2019.

Michelle Obama: Representational Justice,” in *The Meaning of Michelle*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2017. [Reviewed in *The New York Times* and NPR’s “Here and Now.”]

“Which is the Real Confederate Flag?” *The New York Times*, June 26, 2017, A16.

“The Other Us,” *Art in America*, no. 5 (2016): 49-52. [Book Review, Kobena Mercer, *Travel and See*:

*Black Diaspora Art Practices Since the 1980s*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2016].

“Of Two Minds: ‘Powers of Two’ by Joshua Wolf Shenk,” *The New York Times*, August 22, 2014. [Book Review]

“The Hidden Past of Sochi,” *The New Yorker*, February 19, 2014.

“Yinka Shonibare,” *Artforum*, no. 2 (2009): 227. [Exhibition Review]

“Arthur Simms at Five Myles,” *Art in America*, no. 2 (2006): 132. [Exhibition Review]

“De(i)fyng the Masters: Kehinde Wiley’s portraits meld urban street life and European high art traditions,” *Art in America*, no. 4 (2005): 120-25. [Exhibition Review]

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

### Selected Invited Lectures

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 2024   | Pratt Institute, 2024 Commencement Address   |
| Apr. 2024  | CENTER, The Democratic Lens: Photography and Civic Engagement, <i>How We Teach the Truth</i>                                       |
| Mar. 2024  | Brooklyn Public Library, Night at the Library  |
| Feb. 2024  | Carnegie Corporation of New York, Keynote  |
| Nov. 2023  | Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Tyrone Maurice Adderley Lecture   |
| Nov. 2023  | The Gibbes Museum of Art, Distinguished Lecture Series   |
| Oct. 2023  | Muhlenberg College, Vision & Justice, Keynote  |
| May 2023   | Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Opening Artist Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, and Isaac Julien |
| Apr. 2023  | Princeton Atelier, <i>Sites of Memory: Gender, Performance, and the Law</i>  |
| Apr. 2023  | Spelman College Museum of Art, 2022-2023 Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Distinguished Lecture Series   |
| Feb. 2023  | Philadelphia Museum of Art, Arcadia Library Lecture, Keynote   |
| Sept. 2022 | University of North Carolina – Charlotte, Convocation of Arts and Architecture, Keynote  |
| Apr. 2022  | Marquette University, Excellence in Leadership Program Annual Banquet, Keynote   |

- Apr. 2022 Columbia University, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Bettman Lecture Series, Keynote
- Feb. 2022 Capital Community College, Pennington Lecture, Keynote
- Feb. 2022 University of Southern Mississippi, Honors Forum Lecture Series
- Feb. 2022 The Curb Center for Art Enterprise and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, Keynote
- Sept. 2021 Rasmussen University, Annual Academic Symposium
- Sept. 2021 Capella University, Commencement Address (Virtual)
- May 2021 ASALH and PBS Books, *To Make Their Own Way in the World*, A Conversation with Deborah Willis, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, moderated by Ilisa Barbash
- Apr. 2021 Yale School of Architecture, 2021 George Morris Woodruff, Class of 1857, Memorial Lecture
- Mar. 2021 Roger Williams University, School of Architecture, “Groundwork: Race and Aesthetics in the Era of Stand Your Ground Law”
- Mar. 2021 New York Public Library, Work/Cited. [Presentation on *The Unseen Truth* manuscript]
- Mar. 2021 Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture, Spring 2021 Lecture Series, “Groundwork: Race and Aesthetics in the Era of Stand Your Ground Law”
- Mar. 2021 Peabody Essex Museum, Keynote
- Feb. 2021 Arizona State University, School of Art, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Speaker Series, “Vision & Justice: Race, Citizenship, and America”
- Feb. 2021 New York University, Center for Black Visual Culture/Institute of African American Affairs, *The Black Civil War Soldier: A Visual History of Conflict and Citizenship*, A book talk with Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, Matthew Fox-Amato and Deborah Willis
- Nov. 2020 Isaac Julien in conversation with Angela Y. Davis, moderated by Sarah Lewis, A partnership with McEvoy Foundation for the Arts and Museum of African Diaspora
- Oct. 2020 Harvard Book Store, Panel, *To Make Their Own Way in the World* book launch
- Oct. 2020 The Graduate Center, City University of New York, “Change: How Artists Lead the Way”
- Oct. 2020 Vera List Center for Art and Politics, *White Lies: A Tribute to Maurice Berger* [Memorial Panel discussion]
- Sept. 2020 University of North Carolina, Greensboro. College of Visual and Performing Arts Virtual Master Class Series

Feb. 2020 Stanford University, “Vision & Justice”

Feb. 2020 University of Berkeley, “Vision & Justice”

Dec. 2019 University of Kentucky, “Vision & Justice”

Nov. 2019 Harvard University, 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Navin Narayan Memorial Lecture, The Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

June 2019 Opening for Amanda Theater, Array, Los Angeles

May 2019 Yale School of Art, Commencement Address Speaker

Apr. 2019 Harvard University, Vision & Justice: A Convening [Organizer], Opening Keynote

Dec. 2018 National Museum of Women in the Arts

Oct. 2018 Neiman Foundation, 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Harvard University

Sept. 2018 Conversation with Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, at the Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles

Sept. 2018 Southern Utah University, Tanner Lecture in Human Values, “Images, Place, and Cultural Memory”

Sept. 2018 Brown University, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Keynote, Vision & Justice

Aug. 2018 University of Missouri: The Cockefair Foundation, Keynote, Vision & Justice

June 2018 Aspen Ideas Festival, Conversation with Carrie Mae Weems

May 2018 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Keynote, Vision & Justice

Apr. 2018 Pratt Institute, Keynote, Vision & Justice

Apr. 2018 Belmont Hill School, Keynote, *The Rise*

Apr. 2018 Philadelphia University & Thomas Jefferson University, Keynote, *The Rise*

Apr. 2018 The Harvard Campaign Celebration, Sanders Theater, invited faculty speaker

Mar. 2018 Central Michigan University, Keynote, Vision & Justice

Mar. 2018 United States Artists, Annual Conference, Chicago, Keynote

Mar. 2018 The Society for Photographic Education (SPE), Annual Conference, Opening Keynote

Mar. 2018 SXSW, Conversation about *The Rise* (2014)

Feb. 2018 Mississippi Museum of Art, Vision & Justice, Keynote

- Feb. 2018 “On monuments: place, time, memory,” Harvard University Committee on the Arts (HUCA), Tribute to President Drew Gilpin Faust
- Jan. 2018 Milton Academy, All school address, The Margo Johnson Speaker series
- Jan. 2018 The Brearley School, Martin Luther King Day address
- Dec. 2017 Phi Beta Kappa address, Harvard University chapter, fall term induction ceremony
- Oct. 2017 New York University, Department of Russian & Slavic Studies, *Black Sea, Black Atlantic*
- Sept. 2017 Yale University, Yale Center for British Art, Norma Lytton Lecture
- June 2017 Harvard Alumni Association, Lecture by President Drew Faust, in conversation with Archon Fung, St. Paul, MN
- June 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival, conversation with architect Michael Murphy
- Apr. 2017 Harvard University, Committee on University Resources Symposium
- Mar. 2017 Brooklyn Public Library, Vision & Justice (Keynote, 3-part lecture in March and April, civic version of the Vision & Justice class at Harvard University)
- Mar. 2017 University of Michigan, Slavic Studies Dept., Black Sea, Black Atlantic, Manuscript-in-progress presentation
- Mar. 2017 University of Michigan, Keynote, F. W. Thompson Critical Issues Forum, Flint, MI
- Nov. 2016 Harvard Art Museums, Conversation with LaToya Ruby Frazier, moderated by Sebastian Smee
- Oct. 2016 International Baccalaureate, Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain, Keynote
- Oct. 2016 Boston Book Festival
- Oct. 2016 Conversation with Ford Foundation President, Darren Walker, on Art and Inequality, Rothko Chapel
- Sept. 2016 Harvard Art Museums, Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship, Keynote
- Sept. 2016 Harvard University, Hutchins Center, Du Bois Lecture
- Sept. 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, University of Virginia, Keynote
- July 2016 Aspen Ideas Festival, Vision & Justice
- May 2016 Ford Foundation, Launch of the “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture* magazine. Co-hosted by Ford Foundation President, Darren Walker, (Co-organizer)

- May 2016 The Getty, Los Angeles, “What does blackness mean?”
- Apr. 2016 University of Iowa, Writers' Workshop, Creative Matters series, Keynote
- Jan. 2016 Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, Work-in-Progress presentation, New York Public Library
- Sept. 2015 University of Houston, Freshman Reading in Common, Keynote about *The Rise*, selected as the Provost Summer reading for all incoming freshman
- June 2015 American Library Association, San Francisco, CA, President's Keynote
- May 2015 The Getty, Los Angeles, CA, “The Art of Justice,” Keynote
- May 2015 Aspen Institute Arts Summit at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- Feb. 2015 Case Western Reserve University, Keynote
- Jan. 2015 Duke University, Jean Fox O'Barr Distinguished Speaker Series, Keynote
- Jan. 2015 Brooklyn Historical Society, Conversation with Nell Painter
- Sept. 2014 Harvard University, Du Bois Colloquium, *Black Sea, Black Atlantic*
- Mar. 2014 The New York Public Library, Conversation with Anna Deavere Smith [Book launch for *The Rise*]
- May 2013 National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., “Photography in the Federal Art in Embassies Program”
- May 2013 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, panel on “African Art, New York and the Avant-Garde”
- Dec. 2012 “A Writers' Celebration of Romare Bearden, with Elizabeth Alexander, Stanley Crouch, Kwame Dawes, Khalil G. Muhammad, Sarah Lewis, and John Edgar Wideman,” 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, New York, NY
- Oct. 2012 “Nicola Green: Images of the 2008 Obama Campaign,” Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- May 2012 National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., “Art and Architecture: Creating Community”
- Dec. 2011 “Pictures and Progress: Frederick Douglass, The Circassian Beauties and American Racial Formation,” Yale University, History of Art Department
- Apr. 2010 ““Go Back to Russia! Go Back to Africa!”: Circassian Beauties and American Racial Formation,” The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Jun. 2024 Equal Justice Initiative's Dedication of Freedom Monument Sculpture Park and the Legacy Sites, The Arts & Justice, Panel discussion with Hank Willis Thomas, Alison Saar, Sarah Lewis, and Kwame Akoto-Bamfo
- Jun. 2024 Harvard IT Summit, Keynote
- May 2024 Harvard University, Women's Philanthropy Initiative Summit
- Apr. 2024 Washington National Cathedral, Sacred Spaces: Racial Justice & Spirituality in Action Convening
- Apr. 2024 Harvard and The Legacy of Slavery Initiative's 2024 Symposium: Reckoning with History, Shaping Our Future, Memorializing Through the Arts: Honoring Ancestral Legacies
- Mar. 2024 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, 2024 NCECA Conference
- Mar. 2024 SXSW, Design as a Medium Within Visual Art
- Feb. 2024 California Conference for Women, Reframing Failure into Success: Embrace the Near Win
- Oct. 2023 The Instructional Coaching Group, Keynote
- Oct. 2023 Gartner IT Symposium / Xpo
- May 2023 PDT Women & Allies Speaker Series, Keynote
- May 2023 Facing History & Ourselves, *The Power of Memorials and Public Art: Complex Histories and Legacies Today*
- Mar. 2023 Activision Blizzard, Company-wide event, Keynote
- Nov. 2022 U.S. Attorneys Conference, Keynote
- Apr. 2022 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, Howard University, Opening Keynote
- Jan. 2022 APA Eastern Division Meeting, APA Committee Session: Danto/ASA Prize Lecture
- July 2021 Justice Works 2021, Keynote, Vision & Justice
- May 2021 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, People: A Global Dialogue on Museums and Their Publics, Closing Keynote
- Apr. 2021 Higher Learning Commission, 2021 Annual Conference, Opening Keynote
- Apr. 2021 Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Center for Cultural Analysis Conference.

“Caucasian War: Race and the Remaking of Vision in America”

- Feb. 2021 MoMA Forum on Contemporary Photography: A Tribute to Carrie Mae Weems. [Co-Organizer, on the occasion of the publication of *Carrie Mae Weems*, MIT Press, 2021]
- Feb 2021 CAA 2021 Annual Conference, “Belated Exposure: Crafting an Anthology on Carrie Mae Weems, African American Art and the Archives as Method,” Writing Black Archives: African-American Art History in Real Time. [Co-Chair with Jordana Moore Saggese]
- Oct. 2020 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, “The Circassian Beauties and the Caucasian War,” Managing Sight: African American Visual Tactics
- Feb. 2020 Conversation with Leigh Raiford, Museum of the African Diaspora
- Apr. 2019 The Vision & Justice Convening, Organizer, co-hosted by The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard Art Museums, The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research [supported by Ford Foundation Grant and Lambent Foundation grants]
- Mar. 2018 Black Portraitures conference, Harvard University, [Co-Organizer]
- Apr. 2017 28<sup>th</sup> Annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, Howard University
- Feb. 2017 “Picturing Social Movements from Emancipation to Black Lives Matter,” College Art Association
- Mar. 2015 American Studies Department, Un-Conference on Racial Passing, Brown University
- Dec. 2014 Global American Studies Symposium, Warren Center, Harvard University
- Dec. 2014 Contemporary African Art at Cooper Gallery, Hutchins Center, Harvard University, [Co-organizer]
- Nov. 2013 *Callaloo* Conference, Oxford University
- Oct. 2012 “A Conversation with Haile Gerima,” Sarah Lewis and Dagmawi Woubshet interviewing Haile Gerima, *Callaloo* Conference, Princeton University, [Co-organizer]
- May 2012 “‘Pictures and Progress’: Frederick Douglass, The Circassian Beauties, and American Racial Formation,” Society of Early Americanists Conference
- Oct. 2011 “Pictures and Progress,” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD
- Feb. 2011 Savannah College of Art and Design, deFINE Art Festival, Atlanta, GA, Keynote
- Feb. 2011 “Multiple Modernities and Global Art Worlds,” College Art Association, co-chaired with Leslie King-Hammond

Nov. 2007 Here and Now: African American Art and Film conference, sponsored by W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University and Tisch School of the Arts, New York University

## **OTHER APPEARANCES AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

Jun. 2024 Aspen Ideas Festival, *What Images Teach About Racial Justice*, Plenary session with Hank Willis Thomas

Jun. 2024 Aspen Ideas Festival, *The Question of Happiness*, Plenary session with David Brooks, Jeffrey Rosen, Sarah Lewis, Adam Gopnik, and Tamar Gendler

Jun. 2024 Aspen Ideas Festival, *The Bigger Picture*, Roundtable with Vincent Brown

Apr. 2024 Harvard Kennedy School, Culture of Change: Racial Equity in Art, Entertainment, & Sports, In Conversation with Hank Willis Thomas

Nov. 2023 MIT Museum, Book launch event for *Unmaking AI*

Nov. 2023 Stephen Friedman Gallery, In Conversation with Deborah Roberts

Sept. 2023 2 Pages with MBS, Podcast Interview, How to be a Light in the Darkness

May 2023 All Of It with Alison Stewart, Radio Interview, Richard Avedon at 100

Nov. 2022 Museum of Modern Art, LaToya Ruby Frazier Scholar's Day, Roundtable Discussion

Nov. 2022 RBC Wealth Management, Women's Association of Financial Advisors Conference, Keynote

Nov. 2022 Seekonk Public Schools, Professional Development Day, Keynote

Sept. 2022 Harley-Davidson, The Role of Culture in Justice, Keynote

June 2022 Aspen Ideas Festival, What is Beauty?, Panel Discussion

June 2022 Washington National Cathedral, *Light in the Darkness: When Monuments Attack*, Panel Discussion

June 2022 Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, *Ascendant: The Power of Descendant Communities to Shape our Stories, Places and Future*, Panel Discussion

May 2022 *Civil War History* Journal, A Roundtable with Cheryl Finley, Matthew Fox-Amato, Sarah Lewis, Nell Painter, Anne M. Shumard, and Deborah Willis, moderated by Jim Downs, discussing *The Black Civil War Soldier*

May 2022 Forrester, B2B Summit North America, Keynote

Apr. 2022 Prada, Experimental Design Lab Awardees Announcement, Panel Discussion

Feb. 2022 Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP, Black History Month: A REAL Discussion with Sarah Lewis

Feb. 2022 Prada Mode x Frieze, Sarah Lewis in conversation with Martine Syms

Feb. 2022 Harley-Davidson, Black History Month: Inclusion & Belonging, Keynote

Feb. 2022 African-American Community Service Agency, Black History Month Kick-off, Keynote

Dec. 2021 YWCA Wisconsin, 17th Annual “An Evening to Promote Racial Justice”

Nov. 2021 Ralph Lauren, Company-wide event, Vision & Justice keynote

Nov. 2021 Film at LACMA, Black Joy and Resilience Film Series, Mr. SOUL! A Post-Screening Conversation with Melissa Haizlip, Blair Underwood, Nikki Giovanni, and Sarah Lewis, moderated by Neal Lester

Oct. 2021 Greenville Racial Equity and Economic Mobility Commission

Sept. 2021 Facebook Live Audio Room, featuring Sarah Lewis, Yara Shahidi, and Trevor Noah

Sept. 2021 *Black Art*, A Conversation with Richard J. Powell and Sarah Lewis, Hirshhorn Museum [Book Launch]

Sept. 2021 Harvard Book Store, Tina M. Campt in conversation with Sarah Lewis

July 2021 MASS Superintendents General Session, [state-wide gathering of school superintendents], Vision & Justice keynote

June 2021 Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Talks: John Edmonds and Sarah Lewis

June 2021 Black Trustee Alliance for Art Museums, Inaugural Convening, Opening Keynote

May 2021 Silicon Valley Bank, Quarterly Speaker Series

May 2021 Frieze New York 2021: An Online Discussion with Ava DuVernay, Carrie Mae Weems, Franklin Leonard, Theaster Gates, Wynton Marsalis and Sarah Lewis

Jan. 2021 Dare to Lead with Brené Brown (*Part II*): Brené with Dr. Sarah Lewis on Creativity, Surrender, and Aesthetic Force

Dec. 2020 Museum of Tolerance, Mr. SOUL! Virtual Q+A, featuring Doug Blush, Nikki Giovanni, Melissa Haizlip, Blair Underwood, moderated by Sarah Lewis

Nov. 2020 Dare to Lead with Brené Brown (*Part I*): Brené with Dr. Sarah Lewis on The Rise, the Creative Process and the Difference Between Mastery and Success

May 2020 Christiane Amanpour show, Interviewed by Walter Isaacson

Oct. 2017 TEDxHarvardCollege

Mar. 2017 SXSWEdu, Austin, TX, Closing Keynote, Vision & Justice

Dec. 2016 WNYC (Radio program), Segment on the “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture* magazine with Carrie Mae Weems, LaToya Ruby Frazier, moderated by Rebecca Carroll

Nov. 2016 WGBH segment on the “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture* magazine and the related Harvard course and teaching gallery installation

Sept. 2016 “Powerful Words,” Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

Aug. 2016 Kent Presents, Panel on the legacy of Gordon Parks with Deborah Willis, LaToya Ruby Frazier, moderated by Carter Foster

Feb. 2016 Yale University, Creative Careers in the Arts, Conversation with Shana Waterman

Sept. 2015 Texas Municipal League, Annual Conference Delegate Luncheon, Keynote

May 2015 Covenant Church, Flourish Conference, Keynote

Apr. 2015 Berkshire Partners, Investor Conference, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Keynote

Apr. 2015 Arts Orange County, Santa Ana, CA, Keynote

Mar. 2015 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Houston, TX, Keynote

Feb. 2015 National Association of Independent Schools, Annual Conference, Boston, MA, Keynote

Dec. 2014 Segment for the “Big Think,” Art and Social Justice

Oct. 2014 Danville Regional Foundation, Keynote

Oct. 2014 Boston Book Festival, *The Rise*, Keynote

Oct. 2014 Federal Reserve Bank, Annual conference, Keynote

June 2014 Guest appearance on *Charlie Rose*, Interview about *The Rise*

June 2014 Guest on NPR: TED Radio Hour

June 2014 Aspen Ideas Festival, invited lecture about *The Rise*

May 2014 Law School Admissions Council, Asheville, NC, Keynote, *The Rise*

Apr. 2014 Guest on MSNBC, The Cycle, segment about *The Rise*

Mar. 2014 International Association of Privacy Professionals, Keynote

Mar. 2014 TED2014, *Embrace the Near Win*, Main stage talk, Vancouver, Canada

- Mar. 2014      Featured on Minnesota Public Radio, segment about *The Rise*
- Mar. 2014      Appearance on *Late Night with Seth Myers*, interview about *The Rise*
- Mar. 2014      Guest on *The Brian Lehrer Show*, WNYC, segment about *The Rise*
- Jan. 2014      Sundance Film Festival, Panel with Robert Redford, Dave Eggers, Chris Stone, and Jill Soloway, (Moderator), book launch event for *The Rise*

**FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS (Harvard University)**

- 2022-2024      Andrew Carnegie Fellowship [\$200,000]
- 2019-2020      Whiting Public Engagement Seed Grant [\$10,000]  
Principal Investigator, Vision & Justice
- 2018-2019      Anonymous Gift for the creation of the Vision & Justice Fund [\$250,000]
- 2018-2019      Tenure Track Manuscript Workshop Grant, Harvard University [\$4,000]
- 2018-2019      Gordon Parks Foundation Grant [To establish the Gordon Parks Foundation Essay Prize at Harvard University in 2019. \$15,000 to give three prizes of \$5,000 for graduate and undergraduate student essays that explore the relationship between visual art and justice as it pertains to racial equity. Prizes are selected by a jury of faculty.]
- 2018-2019      Ford Foundation Grant [\$50,000]  
Principal Investigator, Vision & Justice
- 2018-2019      Lambent Foundation Grant [\$25,000]  
Principal Investigator, Vision & Justice
- 2017-2018      Ford Foundation Grant [\$250,000]  
Principal Investigator, Vision & Justice
- 2017-2018      William F. Milton Fund, Harvard University [\$40,000]
- 2016-2017      Junior Faculty Research Grant, Harvard University
- 2015-2016      The Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library
- 2015-2016      Junior Faculty Research Grant, Harvard University

**GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (Yale University)**

- 2014-2015      Dorothy Porter and Charles Harris Wesley Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University
- 2012-2014      Henry S. McNeil Fellowship in American Art, Yale University

2011	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2011	Chester Dale Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (alternate)
2010-2011	Nathaniel Currier Fellowship, Yale University
2008	The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Graduate Fellowship
2008	Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Graduate Fellowship

### **UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and HONORS (Harvard University)**

2001-2004	British Marshall Scholarship
2001	Phi Beta Kappa
2001	John Harvard Scholarship for Academic Achievement
2000	Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Scholar
2000	Goldman Sachs Scholarship for Excellence

### **COURSES (Harvard University)**

#### **Primarily for Undergraduates**

HAA 178V	Art of the Black World
HUMAN20	A Colloquium in the Visual Arts
Freshman Seminar 62M	Can Art Inspire Social Justice?
HAA 176E	Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship
AFRAMER 185X	What is Black Art? African American Cultural Production from the Early Republic to Civil Rights
AFRAMER 98	Directed Reading, Junior Tutorial
HAA 98ar	Race and Aesthetics, Junior Tutorial

#### **Primarily for Graduates**

HAA 274	American Racial Ground
HAA 273N	Exhibiting Blackness: The Role of Exhibitions in the Black Atlantic World
HAA 176E	Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship, led a weekly section for the graduates, law school, and GSD students enrolled in the course.
HAA 271K	Picturing America: Photography, Race, and Citizenship
HAA 310b	Methods course, History of Art and Architecture on “Aesthetics, Reception, and the Invention of Race”

## **OTHER TEACHING (Yale University)**

On the faculty of the Yale School of Art in the Painting and Printmaking Departments. Taught seminars for MFA students on the topic of Race and Aesthetics, 2009-2015.

Led graduate photography critiques at Yale School of Art, MFA Program and critiques in the Painting & Printmaking Department.

## **ADVISING**

### **Graduate**

#### Primary advisor

Rachel Burke (History of Art and Architecture)

Destiny Crowley (History of Art and Architecture)

Madeleine Harrison (History of Art and Architecture, Terra Immersion Semester Fellow at Harvard from Courtauld Institute of Art, UK), Spring 2019 only

Kéla Jackson (History of Art and Architecture)

Ebonie Pollock (History of Art and Architecture)

#### Field Advisor

Karintha Lowe (American Studies), 2017-2018

#### General Exam committee

Ebonie Pollock (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2024

Kéla Jackson (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2022

Alexandra Dennett (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2022

Kristie La (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2020

Destiny Crowley (History of Art and Architecture), Fall 2020

Chassidy Winestock (History of Art and Architecture), Fall 2019

Angélica María Sánchez Barona (African and African American Studies), Fall 2019

Jovonna Jones (African and African American Studies), Fall 2018

Christine Garnier (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2018

Jessica Williams (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2017

Mira Schwerda (History of Art and Architecture), Spring 2017

Christofer Rodelo (American Studies), Fall 2017

Sebastian Jackson (African and African American Studies), Fall 2017

#### Dissertation committee

Elizabeth Eager (History of Art and Architecture)

Samuel Ewing (History of Art and Architecture)

Kristie La (History of Art and Architecture)

Mira Schwerda (History of Art and Architecture)

Jessica Williams (History of Art and Architecture)

Keisha Knight (Art, Film and Visual Studies)

Rachel Burke (History of Art and Architecture)

Destiny Crowley (History of Art and Architecture)

Kéla Jackson (History of Art and Architecture)

Ebonie Pollock (History of Art and Architecture)

## Undergraduate

### Thesis reader

Ritchey Howe (History of Art and Architecture)  
Isabella Boursoutus (History of Art and Architecture)  
Luke Calamita

### Thesis advisor (secondary)

Liat Rubin (History and Literature), Focus: Viewing Integration in *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*,  
Spring 2019  
Zoe Hopkins (History of Art and Architecture, African and African American Studies)  
Bristol Fales-Hill (History of Art and Architecture)  
Harry Niles (History of Art and Architecture)

### Informal thesis advisor

Caroline Hubbard (History and Literature), Focus: The British Black Arts Movement

## EXHIBITIONS (sole or co-curated)

*“Art of the Black World,”* Harvard Art Museums, August 2024 - Jan. 2025. Co-curator with Suzanne Preston Blier.

*“I Am Seen... Therefore, I Am: Isaac Julien and Frederick Douglass,”* Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, May 2023 – Sept. 2023. Co-Curator with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

“Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship,” Harvard Art Museums, Aug 2016 - Jan 2017.  
[Graduate Students published 500-1000-word articles on each object, published online as a digital tool for the Harvard Art Museums]

“Race, Love, and Labor,” Center for Photography, Woodstock, 2014.  
[Traveled to 7 venues including the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University, November 18, 2016 - January 28, 2017, still touring. Returned to the Center for Photography in 2023].

SITE Santa Fe Biennial, Co-Curator, “The Dissolve,” 2010. Exhibition design by David Adjaye

## COMMITTEES (Harvard University)

2020-2021	Standing Committee on Women
2018-2019	Vision & Justice Convening Committee, Chair
2018-2019	Gordon Parks Essay Prize Jury, Chair
2018-2019	Curriculum Task Force, History of Art and Architecture Department
2017-2018	Search Advisory Committee, Dean of Undergraduate Education

2017-2018	Undergraduate Curriculum committee, African and African American Studies Department
2017-2021	Standing Committee on American Studies
2017-2021	Faculty Council on the Arts, Office for the Arts
2016-2021	Standing Committee on Women, Gender, and Sexuality
2016-2020	Harvard Arts Medal Committee
2016-2019	FAS Standing Committee on Public Service
2016-2017	Visual and Environmental Studies Department, Asked to consult to the Search Committee for a Tenure-track assistant professor in video/film, installation, and performance
Fall 2016	Richard L. Menschel Curator / Associate Curator of Photography, Search Committee, Harvard Art Museums

### **(NON-COMMITTEE) ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Juror, 2024-2025 Dedalus Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and Senior Fellowship

Peer review, *Art Journal*, *Third Text*, *Art Bulletin*, and MIT Press

Advisor, Peabody Museum, Harvard University exhibition of J.T. Zealy daguerreotypes, exhibition in 2019

Harvard Art Museums, History of Art and Architecture faculty panel for donors, Evening presentation (Oct. 2017)

Visiting Committee to the Harvard Art Museums, Panel luncheon discussion (2018)

Women's Leadership Conference, Faculty Tea, Harvard University (Jan 2017)

Harvard Alumni Association, Saturday of Symposia, Vision & Justice, Invited Lecture (Dec. 2016)

Harvard Women's Weekend, Interviewed by VP of Alumni Affairs and Development, Tamara Rogers (Nov. 2016)

Harvard Alumni Association, Reunion Classes of '71, '76 and '82, Keynote, Harvard Science Center, with Melissa Franklin and Jill Abramson (Oct. 2016)

### **BOARD SERVICE**

Present:

Civil War History (journal), Editorial Board (2020-Present)

Thames & Hudson Inc. (Nov 2020-Present)

Creative Time, Board Member (2010-Present)

Past:

Harvard Design Press, Editorial Board (2020-2022)

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Board Member (2010-2018)

The CUNY Graduate Center, Board Member (2013-2016)

The Brearley School, Board Member (2008-2015)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association

American Society for Aesthetics

American Society for Legal History

American Studies Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

Black Women's Studies Association

The Century Association

College Art Association

Law & Society Association

The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

Society for Photographic Education