INFRASTRUCTURES OF IMPRISONMENT:

Invisible Women and the Carceral State

Monday, April 9 | 5:00-6:30 pm
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room

Michelle Jones
American Studies
New York University

in conversation with
Elizabeth Hinton
Assistant Professor of History and
African and African American Studies
Harvard University

Michelle Jones is a first-year doctoral student in the American Studies program New York University. She is a Research Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for American Studies at Harvard University. She holds a Bachelor’s degree from Ball State University. Following graduation, Michelle completed a four-year seminary ministerial diploma from the University of the South. Her interest in history, women, race, and prisons led her for the last four years to participate with a group of incarcerated scholars in challenging the narratives of the history of women’s prison. Incarcerated for twenty years, Michelle made the most of the academic platform given to publish and present her research findings and dispel notions of the reach and intellectual capacity of justice-involved women. Michelle’s advocacy extends beyond the classroom. She is currently on the board of Constructing Our Future, a reentry alternative for women, created by incarcerated women in Indiana, wherein they are given access to rehabilitative programming, carpentry job skills and the means to earn their own home. Michelle is also the Entrepreneurship Development Director for The Ladies of Hope Ministries. In addition, she has presented legislative testimony on a reentry alternative she created for long-term incarcerated people that was approved by the Indiana State Interim Committee on the Criminal Code. Michelle is also an artist and is interested in finding ways to funnel her research pursuits into theater and dance, including writing an original play, "The Duchess of Stringtown," produced in fall 2017 in Indianapolis and New York (selected scenes).