

Dr. Ann M. Ishimaru (Japanese American Yonsei/she/her) is a researcher, writer, educator, and the Killinger Endowed Chair and Professor of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Policy at the University of Washington College of Education. Through her community- and practice-engaged scholarship, she cultivates the leadership and solidarities of educators and racially minoritized youth, families and communities in pursuit of dignity, justice and wellbeing.

Dr. Ishimaru's body of work unfolds from two key premises. First, leadership plays a crucial role in transforming the longstanding racial injustices reproduced by US public schooling policies, practices and everyday interactions. Second, we arrive at better understandings and solutions to systemic inequities when those directly affected by these problems influence key processes and decisions. Drawing on solidarity-driven codesign methodologies and deep research-community-practice partnerships, Dr. Ishimaru's scholarship and teaching support leaders and collaboratives in realizing more humanizing educational systems, data literacies, relationalities and futures.

Dr. Ishimaru directs the Just Educational Leadership Institute, which hosts the annual Leading towards Justice Symposium as well as numerous research partnerships. She is a Principal Investigator with the Early Literacy Collaborative (ELC), a Research-Community-Practice Partnership with Seattle Public Schools, the Black Child Development Institute, and Seattle Public Libraries. Funded by the W.T. Grant Foundation, the ELC fosters Black family and educator transformative agency to codesign identity-affirming critical literacy practices with and for elementary Black boys. Dr. Ishimaru is also a co-PI of the Measures that Matter Project, a collaborative supported by the Spencer Foundation to transform how formal educational systems develop and use community-driven measures in educational improvement efforts. In partnership with Dare2Be and Renton School District, she also supports the Aunties and Uncles in the School Initiative to tap collective childrearing practices of fictive kin in supporting middle school youth wellbeing. With Dr. Megan Bang, she also led the Family Leadership Design Collaborative from 2015 to 2023.

Dr. Ishimaru is the Faculty Research Director of the Leadership for Learning EdD program. She serves on numerous advisory and editorial boards, is a member of the AERA Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award Committee, and for the past 7 years, has been a Jackson Scholars of Color Program Mentor with the University Council of Educational Administration (UCEA). Within that same professional association, she co-founded the Asian American Pacific Islander Educational Leadership Special Interest Group (SIG). Her work has been recognized by numerous awards, including the 2017 Exemplary Contributions to Practice-Engaged Research Award from the American Educational Research Association. In 2023-2024, she served as the UW College of Education Faculty President

In addition to peer-reviewed articles in top-tier educational research journals, Dr. Ishimaru published *Just Schools: Building Equitable Collaborations with Families and Communities*, with Teachers College Press in 2020. Her latest book, with Dr. Decoteau Irby, *Doing the Work of Equity Leadership for Justice and Systems Change*, will be published this September by Teachers College Press. She lives in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, 3 children, 2 cats, and 4 chickens. Outside of work, you can find her cheering from the sidelines at youth soccer or ultimate games, supporting the taiko performance group she co-founded in Portland, trying new foods in her global travels, or serving up shaved ice at her temple's Obon festival.