Professor Ishimaru’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of leadership, school-community relationships and educational equity in early care through high school. Her work aims to expand educational leadership to create more equitable educational environments, with particular attention on students, families and communities who have been historically marginalized in education. In addition, she focuses on formal leaders in educational systems, data-informed inquiry and school transformation.

Professor Ishimaru is co-principal investigator for the Family Leadership Design Collaborative, a national effort to re-center nondominant families in racial equity efforts. She is also a co-principal investigator on the Equitable Parent-School Collaboration Research Project, which seeks to foster engagement from parents and communities toward improving student learning across South Seattle and South King County, and principal investigator on a research-practice partnership fostering system capacity of racial equity in Seattle Public Schools. She has received the Exemplary Contributions to Practice-Engaged Research Award from the American Educational Research Association in 2017, the Jack A. Culbertson (Early Career) Award from the University Council of Educational Administration in 2016 and the Social Justice Dissertation Award from American Educational Research Association in 2013.


Learn more about Professor Ishimaru’s work with the Family Leadership Design Collaborative.

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