



*The JASC Legacy Center Presents a free "Memories of Now" Seminar Series Presentation*

*ASL Interpretation Will Be Available*

**October 14, 2018**  
**SUNDAY, 5:00pm – 6:30pm**

# CONVERSATIONS ON DISABILITY JUSTICE

**Featured Speaker: Professor Akemi Nishida, UIC**

The latest research by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention shows that one in four US adults will have some form of disability that impacts a major part of their life. Disabilities can develop in anyone, particularly as aging is often accompanied by the development of some form of disability. However, disability does not necessarily affect everyone equally. Social injustice (e.g., racism), for example, can cause one to become disabled as a result of hateful violence. Likewise, one's inability to afford quality health insurance and medical care can determine his/her/their wellbeing and chance of becoming sick and disabled. In this reality, disabled people have been forging communities to fight back against ableism (discrimination against disabled people) and nurture their community ties.

How do you understand disability? Is there more than one way to understand disability? What kinds of disability activism has been forged in the US? Whether and how do racialized communities participate in it? And finally how can the wisdom of disability activism inform other organizing and related works to make them more inclusive and sustainable?

Please join disability justice advocate, Akemi Nishida, for a conversation on disability justice work and share perspectives on the ways in which Japanese American communities can learn from disability organizing work and build meaningful coalitions.

**Speaker Bio:**

Professor Akemi Nishida uses research, education, and activism to investigate the ways in which ableism is exercised in relation to racism, cis-heteropatriarchy, xenophobia and other forms of social injustices. She also uses such methods to work towards cross-community solidarity for the liberation and celebration of community power. She is currently an assistant professor in the Disability & Human Development and Gender & Women's Studies departments at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her commitment for disability and other social justice work continues outside of academia as she works as a member of a Chicago-based grassroots organization, Advance Youth Leadership Power.

In attending the presentation, we ask that all attendees please refrain from wearing scented products. For further accommodation questions and requests, please contact Ryan Yokota at [ryokota@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:ryokota@jasc-chicago.org) or at (773) 275-0097 ext. 222. The event space is wheel-chair accessible.



Presentation Location:  
**Japanese American Service Committee (JASC)**  
 4427 N. Clark Street  
 Chicago, IL 60640



**JACL**  
 Japanese American Citizens League  
 CHICAGO CHAPTER

**Co-sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS) and the Japanese American Citizens League - Chicago Chapter (JACL-Chicago)**

This program is made possible in part by a grant from Illinois Humanities, with support from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge.



Event and Parking are Free.  
**RSVP to Ryan Yokota**  
 By calling or emailing at:  
**773-275-0097, ext. 222 or at**  
**[ryokota@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:ryokota@jasc-chicago.org)**