Can We Test for Liberation? High Stakes Testing and Restorative Assessment

Wed. February 14, 2017
McHenry 0266 & 0292 - Ground Floor
Pre-Colloquium Social 5:00-5:30pm
Colloquium 5:30-7:00pm

Schools in the United States are inundated with high-stakes, standardized tests, which are used as the central tool for educational policy and accountability systems there - often under the guise of promoting racial justice and civil rights. In this talk, Dr. Wayne Au uses empirical research on the impact of high-stakes to argue that, rather than promote educational equality, such testing in fact causes harm to working class and Black and Brown students as a form of retributive justice, which seeks to punish "wrongdoers" rather than addressing the actual material issues and conditions that contribute to educational achievement.

Wayne Au is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education Studies at the University of Washington, Bothell and is an Editor for the Social Justice Education Magazine Rethinking Schools.