

# **Advocating for Transformative Change: Addressing Nativespeakerism, Social Justice, Diversity, and Equity in ELT**

*Saturday 2 September 2023 13:00 (1 hour)*

In this talk, I will address nativespeakerism, social justice, diversity, and equity issues in the ELT landscape of Japan and Southeast Asian countries. My talk will call upon ELT professionals to become advocates for transformative change. Highlighting the consequences of nativespeakerism, I will explore the need for allyship and solidarity within and beyond the classroom. I will also share my journey of activism to challenge discriminatory practices in ELT and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee's efforts in making JALT a more equitable association for teachers as incoming chair of the DEI committee. Additionally, I'll touch upon how activism in ELT influenced my role as an art activist for Myanmar, emphasizing the interconnectedness of art and social justice efforts. In line with that, this talk will extend its focus on the importance of integrating social justice themes to foster socially conscious and empowered learners in inclusive ELT classrooms. I will also share practical strategies for promoting allyship and activism with the hope that it will empower educators to act in their institutions and communities and inspire their students and themselves to become citizens with a strong sense of civic agency. By collectively addressing these issues, I hope that this talk will further motivate participants to work towards a more just and equitable world.

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