



Blind in
Early
Modern
Japan

DISABILITY,
MEDICINE,
AND
IDENTITY



Wei Yu Wayne Tan



April 2024

5

1:15 - 2:30PM ET

International Center
Room 303

Blind in Early Modern Japan

The presentation explores the cultural and historical contexts of blindness in early modern Japan (1600–1868) and asks: What was blindness, and how did people live with blindness? The answers challenge us to think about disability in Japanese history and the field of disability studies in new and interesting ways.



Speaker Wei Yu Wayne Tan is Associate Professor of History at Hope College in Michigan. He is a disability historian and historian of medicine of Japan and East Asia. His first book, *Blind in Early Modern Japan: Disability, Medicine, and Identity*, received awards and honors from the American Historical Association, the Disability History Association, and the Social Science History Association.

This event is made possible with support from the MSU Japan Council, and the Title VI National Resource Center grant managed by the MSU Asian Studies Center and co-sponsored by the MSU History Department and Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities.