



BCSSTA
 BRITISH COLUMBIA
 SOCIAL STUDIES
 TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



BCSSTA INTERIOR REGIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

Building Your Practice:

Teaching Social Studies in a Changing World

Friday February 21st, 2014 at George Elliot Secondary

The first Social Studies regional conference!

Featuring speakers and workshops for social studies teachers.

Topics of interest for elementary, middle & high school teachers.

Teachers of other subjects are welcome.

-Conference Offerings-

8:30- SS-1- Group Discussion: New Social Studies Curriculum

Lindsay Gibson - Describing the K-9 curriculum and its rationale.

10:00- SS-2- Special Guest Speaker George Somerwill (UN, BBC, CBC)

"Changing Iraq: The UN, the West & the Calamity of Unintended Consequences"

12:00- Workshop Session #1

SS-3- Historical Thinking

Presented with the support & cooperation of:

SS-4- Collaboration & SS 10

SS-5- Intellectual Self Defense

1:30- Workshop Session #2

SS-6- Where's the Geography?

SS-7- Inquiry Based Social Studies



Find session descriptions & presenter biographies on the following pages.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of this conference by the BC Teachers' Federation.



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Don't miss our morning session & guest speaker!

Join us for these relevant and engaging offerings to start the day.

Morning Session

8:30- 9:45

SS-1- Group Discussion: The New BC Social Studies Curriculum

The purpose of this session is to introduce the new BC Social Studies K-9 Draft curriculum and have an open discussion about its benefits and limitations. Proposed changes to the Grade 10-12 Social Studies Curriculum, the future of the Social Studies 11 Exam and grad requirements in Social Studies will also be discussed. Notes will be taken during the discussion and a summary of the discussion will be shared with all participants and forwarded to the BC Ministry of Education for their consideration. Lindsay Gibson who was part of the team of teachers who worked on the new BC Social Studies K-9 Draft Curriculum will open the session by describing the K-9 curriculum and its rationale.

Moderator: Ryan Holly

Special Guest Speaker: George Somerwill

10:00-11:15

SS-2- Guest Speaker: "Changing Iraq: The UN, the West and the Calamity of Unintended Consequences"

In 2013, the situation in Iraq remains as dangerous as ever, an unintended consequence of the 2003 invasion. What precipitated this crisis? What were the real motives behind economic sanctions? Are Iraqis better or worse off in February 2014 than they were under Saddam Hussein? And who should bear responsibility for the change?

PRESENTER: *George Somerwill has had a varied and successful career working as a journalist with the BBC and CBC as well as with international nongovernmental organizations like CARE International, and in several UN Peacekeeping operations. He has held posts in emergency programming, media relations and post conflict reconstruction all over the world. Through his work, he has increased the impact and acceptance of the UN in various countries that have needed its assistance.*



Attend any one of these three workshops during our first afternoon session.

Afternoon Session #1: Workshop Option A

12:00-1:15

SS-3- Historical Thinking - Helping Students Engage: This presentation focuses on providing Grade 7-12 teachers with an introduction to the six historical thinking concepts that are included as Curricular Competencies in the BC Social Studies K-9 Curriculum Draft. The presenters will provide ideas, activities, materials and examples that can be used to implement the historical thinking competencies in their Social Studies classrooms. The presenters will focus on the historical thinking concepts "Continuity and Change" & "Historical Perspective Taking" in greater depth and will suggest potential lessons and applications for the classroom. **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Middle & Secondary Social Studies Teachers

PRESENTERS: *Janet Thompson* has taught secondary Social Studies in Vancouver since 1994. Her passion is teaching critical and historical thinking, and she was honoured for her work in this regard by receiving the 2012 Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching. *James Miles* is a Social Studies & IB History teacher at West Vancouver Secondary. He completed his MA in Curriculum and Pedagogy in Social Studies at UBC under the supervision of Dr. Penney Clark and Dr. Peter Seixas. He also blogs for the Historical Thinking Project at historicalthinking.ca

Afternoon Session #1: Workshop Option B

12:00-1:15

SS-4- Collaboration & Social Studies 10 - A New Model of Teacher Collaboration: This session aims to share two teachers' re-designed Social Studies 10 course plan that focuses on inquiry-based learning, critical thinking, and project-based learning. Participants will look at online resources created for the redesigned Social Studies 10 course that other teachers can use to teach the course, as well as other Canadian history courses. Teachers will be offered a new model of teacher collaboration, learning and professional development supported by online technology that could be used to support the development of other collaborative networks in the future, in both social studies and other subject areas. **Target Audience:** SS10 teachers or other teachers interested in creating collaborative networks

PRESENTERS: *John McParland* is a teacher at Mt. Boucherie where teaches Socials 10 & Career Programs. He is currently completing a Master's in Coaching & Athletic Administration. *Karla Dow* has taught at Okanagan Mission Secondary for the past 8 years. She has taught Leadership, Home Economics, Physical Education, English and Social Studies. She has a passion for history and strives to engage students in a variety of ways. Her most recent project was a blended approach to Social Studies 10, of which there were many successes, but also some bumps in the road, which she hopes session attendees can learn from.

Afternoon Session #1: Workshop Option C

12:00- 1:15

SS-5- Intellectual Self Defence - Learn & Teach: This workshop will facilitate a process by which participants explore the notion of becoming critical consumers of media messages, thinking for themselves about history, current events, and politics, questioning commonly-held assumptions, seeing connections between issues, analyzing bias in media, recognizing underlying themes and perspectives in media messages, and evaluating opinions. Through a facilitative process called "Card Stack and Shuffle," participants will share, develop, and explore instructional approaches and strategies that will allow them to meaningfully address Social Studies learning outcomes while facilitating a similar process with their own students. **Target Audience:** K-12 Social Studies Teachers

PRESENTER: *Clay McLeod* is a father, teacher, writer, and a union and social justice activist. He has been a classroom teacher since 2000 and currently teaches Grade 5 at South Kelowna Elementary School. Clay has a Bachelor of Laws, a B.Ed, and an M.A.(Ed.). He also facilitates social justice-themed workshops for teachers and students. Clay has written about Fair Trade, social justice, and "intellectual self-defence." His writing has appeared in publications ranging from the *Alberta Law Review* to *Owl* magazine, and he has been quoted by the Supreme Court of Canada. Clay has worked with organizations ranging from Health Canada to La Siembra Co-operative.



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Afternoon Session #2: Workshop Option A

1:30– 2:45

SS-6- Where's the Geography? Many teachers shy away from teaching geography components in the secondary social studies curriculum, or simply include a few maps as the geography piece in their teaching. This workshop aims to help teachers find more ways to incorporate geographic components into their lessons, and find where it is often hidden or embedded in their courses. Participants will come away with some strategies and ideas about how to use more geographic themes in their social studies lessons. **Target Audience:** Middle & Secondary Social Studies Teachers

PRESENTER: Jozsef Budai has been a secondary social studies teacher in Burnaby since 1990, and is currently the Socials Department Head at Alpha Secondary. Jozsef completed his M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Leadership from UBC, and is passionate about teaching geography. He is currently the B.C. representative on the national Canadian Geographic Education Executive committee.

Afternoon Session #2: Workshop Option B

1:30– 2:45

SS-7- Inquiry-Based Social Studies Units - Using Project-Based Learning and Critical Thinking

This session focuses on helping teachers design and implement Inquiry-Based Social Studies units and projects using Project-Based Learning and Critical Thinking strategies. Teachers will be provided with various tools to include these principles in a social studies unit that they are interested in creating. Several examples and projects from various elementary, middle and secondary school teachers will be shared, and time will be provided to begin planning a unit and sharing ideas with colleagues. **Target Audience:** K-12 Social Studies Teachers

PRESENTER: Lindsay Gibson is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at UBC. He also works as a member of the Instructional Leadership Team in School District No. 23 where he previously taught secondary school history and social studies. He has worked with the Historical Thinking Project since 2008 as a project curriculum leader, and as a presenter at a variety of conferences and professional development workshops. Lindsay also works as presenter, writer and editor for a variety of The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²) projects. Recently, Lindsay was part of a team of teachers who designed the new K-10 BC Social Studies Curriculum.

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- School District No. 23 SSLSA Mission Statement -

*To support teachers through collaboration,
encourage professional development,
and provide online access to resources and information.*

Interested in the Social Studies LSA, or the BCSSTA? Contact Graeme Stacey: graeme.stacey@sd23.bc.ca