

# Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

Collaborative Professional Learning to Support Vermont Schools



## Countering the *Past* of Least Resistance: Inquiry as a Tool for Teaching Hard History

Dr. Kathy Swan | CVEDC-ESA | April 6, 2022

The past year has been turbulent for social studies educators. The summer of 2020 brought calls for racial justice and discussions of structural racism to the forefront in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and widespread Black Lives Matter protests. Then, shortly thereafter, a group of pundits, politicians, and parents weaponized the term *critical race theory* as a means to frame any attempts to teach about historical oppression as divisive and unpatriotic.

As educators witnessing these culture wars in action, it can be tempting to succumb to the heat of these ideological factions and seek safety in the *past* of least resistance. But, teaching “hard history”<sup>5</sup> is essential for understanding who we are, how we got here, and what hope lies ahead. Hard history confronts messy and uncomfortable ideas in order to work towards a more just future.

In this session, we examine one approach to teaching hard history using the Inquiry Design Model (IDM). Join Dr. Kathy Swan as we examine hard history with the core elements of inquiry—questions, tasks and sources—and look at ways that students can build a deeper understanding of a complex idea and a greater facility with the tools of inquiry over a course of study by regularly engaging in an inquiry.



*Kathy Swan* is a professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Swan served as the project director and lead writer of the *College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards* and is the co-founder/co-director of C3 Teachers. Dr. Swan has co-authored and edited many books including: *Inquiry-Based Practice in Social Studies Education: The Inquiry Design Model* (2017; Routledge); *Inquiry Design Model: Building Inquiries in Social Studies* (2018; NCSS & C3 Teachers); and, *Blueprinting an Inquiry Based Curriculum: Planning with the Inquiry Design Model* (2019; NCSS & C3 Teachers). Swan recently served as Project Director and Executive Producer of the *Making Inquiry Possible* film project ([makinginquirypossible.org](http://makinginquirypossible.org))

## Dr. Kathy Swan

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April 6, 2022 VIRTUAL

Target Audience: Educators  
Grades 6-12

Choose either morning or  
afternoon 3-hour session  
8:30 am – 11:30 am -or-  
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

*\*This model will allow teachers to share a single substitute.*

Includes Dr. Swan’s book:  
*Blueprinting an Inquiry-Based Curriculum: Planning with the Inquiry Design Model* (sent to you ahead of event.)

Location: Zoom

3-hour session

CVEDC member \$200  
Non-Member \$250

Save the Dates: October 11  
& 12 - in-person series on  
the Inquiry Design Model with  
Dr. Kathy Swan