

Using Philosophical Community of Inquiry to engage Critical and Creative Thinking



The Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW presents:

Introduction to Philosophical Community of Inquiry

PD for teachers from Early Learning to Stage 6, from all KLAS

Sessions presuppose no formal training in philosophy / critical thinking. Workshops are typically hosted by The Centre for Critical Thinking and Ethics at Newington College: 200 Stanmore Road, Stanmore NSW 2048.

A Two Day Face-to-Face Workshop, addressing Australian Professional Standards: 3.3.2 and 4.1.2.

Day 1 introduces the use of the Philosophical Community of Inquiry (COI) pedagogy to promote critical, creative and caring thinking in a safe learning environment that maximises student participation. Participants:

- Experience inquiry-based learning through respectful and inclusive student interaction in community of inquiry.
- Practise an introductory set of thinking tools through classroom activities designed to support and refine *questioning* and *concept exploration*.

Day 2 builds on COI collaborative inquiry-based teaching practices from Day 1. Participants will:

- Extend their practical knowledge of how to facilitate Communities of Inquiry to promote critical, creative and caring thinking in a student-centred, safe, positive learning environment.
- Hone their understanding of the basic conceptual operations involved in *reasoning*, *planning* *collaborative inquiry-based lessons* and *designing learning activities*.

Next available workshop 17 February and 3 March 2026

To book: <https://events.humanitix.com/introduction-to-philosophical-community-of-inquiry-workshop>



Microcredential

Participants who complete the two-day workshop and a practical application and reflection task will earn an Introduction to Philosophical Community of Inquiry Certificate issued by the Federation of Asia-Pacific Philosophy in Schools Associations (FAPSA).

FAPSA is the peak body for philosophy in schools in the Asia-Pacific region.

This course of professional learning is endorsed by the UNESCO Chair on the Practice of Philosophy with Children, based at the Université de Nantes in France.



w: <https://www.philosophyinschoolsnsw.org/>

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Meet our Team of Expert Presenters, all of whom are FAPSA Teacher-Educators and experienced P4C practitioners. Britta & Janine additionally hold the **FAPSA Philosopher certification**



Dr Britta Jensen is Director of the **Centre for Critical Thinking and Ethics**, Newington College, an experienced **Philosophy** teacher, and President of the Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW. Over the past thirty years, Britta has worked in research (**Linguistics** and **Cognitive Science**) and in education: teaching, **building staff capacity with P4C pedagogy**, and developing curricula. She has worked in schools across all sectors in NSW.



Kate Kennedy White is Associate Director of the **Centre for Critical Thinking and Ethics** and teaches K-6 Philosophy. She has certification from Sapere (UK), the IAPC (USA) and the Institute of Philosophy Practice (FRA). In 2014, Kate was awarded a NSW Premier's Early Childhood Scholarship to study **P4C in early childhood** (ages 3-6). She is a **lead author** in *Philosophical Inquiry with Children* (2018) and a contributor to the Edspresso podcast series.



Principal of Leichhardt Public School and Primary P4C specialist, **Dan Muir-Smith** has been a dedicated classroom practitioner in NSW and abroad. Dan's passion is to help teachers create **thinking classrooms** by engaging in dialogue. He has extensive experience in building teachers' capacity by developing P4C lesson plans and resource kits as part of a sequenced, **whole school approach to implementing philosophy K-6**. Dan is also Treasurer of FAPSA, the peak body for philosophy teachers in the Asia-Pacific region.



Janine Timillero is Head of Professional Growth (Newington College), President of GATSTA, and an experienced teacher with expertise in **HSIE, Philosophy, and Gifted Education**. She has a Masters of Education and has a GDip in Philosophy. In her role, Janine works with teachers to build capacity by incorporating **philosophical thinking** in classrooms.

→ **Watch Dan teach and listen to Emeritus Professor of Philosophy Phil Cam talk about our work**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk_B32HtnWg

→ **View Professor Sandra Lynch and Kate Kennedy White's Edspresso Podcasts:**

- ◆ <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/education-for-a-changing-world/resource-library/sandra-lynch>
- ◆ <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/education-for-a-changing-world/resource-library/edspresso-episode-16--opening-students--minds-with-philosophical>