

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jay M. Shuttleworth is an Associate Professor and Director of the Secondary Social Studies Program at City University of New York, Queens College. Jay was a high school history teacher for nine years (and the track and field head coach for eight!) and has taught at the university level for sixteen years. His areas of expertise are secondary social studies teacher education, representations of history, sustainable living, global citizenship, and oral history

### Q. Why did you become a teacher?

A. I saw the classroom as a place for joy, playfulness, curiosity, justice, friendship, and transformation. It was an opportunity to become a lifelong learner for my students, the community, and myself. I became a teacher to help students develop their own critical understandings of the world and to ask difficult questions about the past and how it informed the world around them. I saw the classroom as a way to help students find a place to belong, to build bonds, and to embrace hope for themselves and for others.

### Q. What teaching success or career achievement are you most proud of?

A. I am proud that my teaching career



has shown me how much I still have to learn about the world. Things like my fellowship at Columbia or studies in Japan transformed how I understood

happiness and the purpose of good living and teaching. But I know that some of the best lessons are still ahead.

### Q. When and why did you join NCSS?

A. I joined NCSS in 2009 and attended my first conference in Atlanta. I went because my friends were going! And the advanced doctoral students in my program all talked about it, so I had to see it for myself.

### Q. How has being a part of a professional association like NCSS enriched your career?

A. Joining NCSS has helped me to cultivate friendships and my academic voice. It has given me a space to find belonging, fellowship, and myself. ▀

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