

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - CIES 2017 MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Middle East Special Interest Group (MESIG) welcomes proposals for the 2017 Annual CIES Meeting to be held in Atlanta, Georgia March 5-9, 2017. The MESIG is dedicated to advancing scholarship on educational issues in the region by highlighting contributions from members that draw on empirical research, historical or conceptual analyses, and/or case studies of educational policies, programs or pedagogies.

Colleagues working on educational issues within or about the broader Middle East and North Africa region are invited to contribute proposals between 500-750 words for review. In addition to such contributions, we welcome submissions that connect to this year's conference theme: "Problematizing (In)Equality: The Promise of Comparative and International Education."

The longstanding, rich history of MENA countries and their distinguished development journey provide opportunities for not only north-to-south but also south-to-south comparative approaches to examine educational issues, policies, and practices throughout the MENA region. The wave of popular uprisings beginning in late 2010 has engendered complex realities for educators, administrators, youth, civil society, and policymakers in the region. Economic pressures are exacerbating high levels of youth unemployment. Violent conflicts in Iraq, Gaza, and Syria have fuelled large-scale humanitarian crises that show no sign of abating, while other states across MENA, including Egypt and Tunisia, are undergoing periods of political transitions. In such a milieu, to what extent educational policies and practices in the MENA region contribute to overcome or reproduce structural, social, economic and/or cultural inequalities? How does education, broadly conceived, speak to and reflect the myriad challenges facing the region? What possibilities, partnerships, innovations and philosophies are being drawn upon for an education that is emancipatory, transformative, and empowering? What initiatives are being implemented to improve teaching and learning and to achieve inclusive education? What lessons are learned or should be taken into consideration for current or future development initiatives towards educational equality and social justice?

Submissions that draw upon critical perspectives are particularly welcome.

Up to four papers will be assigned per SIG panel. Proposals that are not selected for the MESIG highlighted sessions will be considered for the general pool. For further information about the conference theme and abstract submission process, please visit the conference [website](#).

Submission deadline is October 1, 2016. All proposals must be submitted via the CIES 2017 conference website. To submit your proposal to the MESIG, your membership dues of 10 USD must be paid **in advance of registration**. You can pay this fee through the online registration system. Select the Middle East SIG when submitting your proposal if you wish to be considered for a MESIG highlighted panel.

We look forward to welcoming you to Atlanta, Georgia, and to engaging with your great work!