Call for Papers

Ninth Biannual Gulf Comparative Education Society (GCES) Conference

Rethinking Educational Reform in the GCC: Reflecting on the Past to Inform the Future

The Regency Hotel, Kuwait
April 20-21, 2020

The Gulf Comparative Education Society (GCES) is a not-for-profit society formed in 2008 to enable professional and academic educational discourse on the Gulf region from a comparative stance.

The Ninth Gulf Comparative Education Conference is entitled “Rethinking Educational Reform in the GCC: Reflecting on the Past to Inform the Future.” With the GCES celebrating its 10th anniversary, the 2020 conference reflects back on the theme of education reform in the Gulf from our first symposium in 2010, to see what has changed and the lessons and practices that can be shared since the initial symposium. The conference aims to develop expertise on education reform in the GCC, providing a platform for current and future research. The 2020 GCES Conference calls for papers that explore the following areas in the GCC context:

- Past and future education reforms in the GCC: achievements, challenges, and pitfalls
- 10 years of GCES, what has changed?
- Privatization and the role of the private sector
- 21st-century challenges in education in the GCC: curriculum, students, teachers, schools, academics, and institutions
- Evolving or new regulatory frameworks in education: including the role of the Global Education Industry (GEI) in education reform in the GCC
- International assessments (TIMSS, PIRLS, and PISA) as indicators of educational practice in the GCC
- Education policies in the GCC: welcoming papers from the ministries of education, policymakers, and key stakeholders in education
- Teacher education, training programs, licensing, and professionalism

We welcome papers and abstracts from policymakers, NGOs, academics, and educators who wish to participate in the debate and explore policies and practices across the Gulf. We especially encourage individuals working in ministries of education—or other education related government entities—to submit papers that focus on the needs and challenges of the regulatory and policymaking bodies.

Both quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research are welcome. All abstracts should include the following:
1. Background: Explains the purpose of the work and provides a brief description of the problem/research question addressed and how this makes a unique contribution to the literature.

2. Methods: Indicates the theoretical-methodological approach used, including any limitations.

3. Results: Clearly presents the primary findings of the study.

4. Conclusion: Briefly discusses the main outcome of the study in relation to the research question and any policy implications and the role of future research.

5. Relevance to the GCC

All GCES abstracts and publications in English should use American spelling and grammar, and the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style. All GCES abstracts and publications in Arabic should adhere to the Vancouver citation style. Please note that all abstract text should be restricted to 250 words. After the submission deadline, the GCES Committee will undergo a blind review process to recommend a list of abstracts to be presented at the GCES 2020 Conference.

Abstract Submission Details

Abstracts proposals should be submitted online at: http://gces.ae/abstract-submission/.

Deadline: December 7, 2019

Notification Date: Late January/Early February 2020

Faculty Travel Grant

The Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research will offer one (1) travel grant to a faculty presenting results from their research at the 2020 GCES Conference. The grant will be up to $1,000 and will be awarded on the basis of the quality of the submitted abstract. It can be used for travel, accommodation, or other related expenses.

To apply, please visit here: http://gces.ae/travel-grant/. The deadline is December 7, 2019.

Registration Fees

Conference registration and annual membership fee: 30 KD (365 AED or USD$100)*

Conference registration and annual membership fee (student): 20 KD (250 AED or USD$65)*

*Presenters at the conference will receive a 50% discount.

Registration fee includes light refreshments, lunches, and access to all speaker presentations and workshops during the symposium.

For more information about the GCES or the 2020 Conference, log onto our website at: www.gces.ae or email us at gces.symposium@gmail.com.