

The Middle East Special Interest Group (MESIG) welcomes proposals for its highlighted panels at CIES 2014 in Toronto, hosted by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Colleagues working on educational issues within or about the broader Middle East and North Africa region, or with peoples from the region, are invited to contribute 500-750 word proposals that connect their research and practice to this year's conference theme: "Revisioning Education for All."

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, curricula, or pedagogies.

In addition to such contributions, this year we welcome submissions that engage with the theme of Education for All and educational equity broadly defined, particularly those that examine the right to education at all levels of learning throughout the region.

Submissions that engage diverse theoretical and conceptual 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.

Important dates for this year's conference:

- Proposal submission deadline: October 25, 2013
- Acceptance notification: TBA
- Registration opens in mid-October

All proposals must be submitted via the CIES 2014 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.

Due to past issues that led to an inaccurate tally of our membership, we ask that you kindly email the MESIG co-chairs upon completing your registration and payment, as confirmation that you are a current member of the MESIG in good standing.

The MESIG will host a Business Meeting at the conference where current and prospective members can learn more about the SIG and its members' activities.

This year, as we discussed in New Orleans, we will also inaugurate a MESIG members' dinner at a local restaurant TBD prior to our Business Meeting to build our community and get to know one another better.

We look forward to an active presence at CIES 2014 and to critically engage a growing interest in education in and about the region through our activities and listserv. Please join us by presenting your work and attending the various presentations and meetings highlighting our membership's scholarship and practice.

MESIG Outstanding Student Paper Award.

The Middle East Special Interest Group aims to create a collaborative community of inquiry by bringing together scholars, educators, and development practitioners interested in the study of the region. Through high quality scholarship, dissemination, and service we seek to enhance educational policy, programming, and pedagogy, and to foster understanding of the region's peoples more generally.

In order to further this mission and facilitate the goals of supporting junior scholars and promoting quality emergent scholarship, the CIES MESIG is pleased to announce a Call for Papers for the second annual CIES MESIG Student Paper Prize.

The CIES MESIG invites research papers from graduate students on any topic related to education in the Middle East, North Africa, or in locales with historic or contemporary ties to the region and their peoples. Papers will be reviewed using a blind review process, thus the name(s) of author(s) should not be included on the title page, header, or footer of the paper submission.

The deadline for submissions is: January 24th, 2014.

Guidelines for Submissions

Papers of 3500-5000 words, including reference list, on any topic related to education in the Middle East, North Africa, or in locales with historic or contemporary ties to the region and their peoples, should be submitted to the MESIG at cies.mesig@gmail.com with "2014 Paper Prize" in the subject line. An abstract of 150 words should accompany the submission and appear on page 1. The author(s) names should NOT appear on any page of the submission. Please submit papers as email attachments in Word (.doc or .docx) format. Papers should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and pagination. Hard copies will not be considered.

In the body of your email, please submit the following information: author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation(s), email address(es), and the name and full contact information of the student faculty advisor.

Submissions must be received by email by midnight on January 24th, 2014 (EST) to be considered.

Students must be registered in a graduate program at a recognized institution during any part of 2013 or 2014. There is no geographic limitation to the location of the institution. Students may be of any nationality or citizenship status. Co-authored papers will be considered, provided that all authors fulfill the eligibility requirements.

Submissions will be evaluated by a committee through a blind review process that will consider the merits of each paper, including originality of the research topic, strength of argument, as well as aspects such as: the statement of thesis, delivery, theoretical and methodological approach, discussion of findings and implications. Papers will also be considered for the clarity of writing and potential for publication.

The author(s) of the winning paper will receive recognition at the CIES MESIG Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of CIES and through the CIES newsletter and MESIG website, in addition to a monetary award of \$150 (to be shared in the case of co-authors). In order to receive the award, authors must demonstrate proof of student status.

Questions may be directed to cies.mesig@gmail.com with the subject line "2014 Paper Prize—Query."