- World Council of Comparative Education Societies, which boasts more than 30 constituent comparative education societies worldwide
- Association for Development of Education in Africa
- African Evaluation Association
- Other centers and institutions of comparative education and international development, such as the Comparative Education Research Center, University of Hong Kong; Institute for International Studies in Education, University of Pittsburgh; Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research, Malta University; Comparative, International and Development Education Center, University of Ontario; Centre for Education Quality Improvement, Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa

CIERC Advisory Board and Affiliated Scholars

- Hamood Al-Harthi, professor, Sultan Qaboos University; former president, Gulf Society of Comparative Education, Oman.
- N'Dri T. Assié-Lumumba, professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University; fellow, World Academy of Art & Science; president-elect, Comparative and International Education Society.
- Baioumy Dahawy, professor, Suez Canal University; vice president, Egyptian Society of Comparative Education and Educational Administration.
- Fatma Gök, professor, Bogazici University, Istanbul; president, Turkish Comparative Education Society.
- Ahmed Heggi, professor, Helwan University; president, Egyptian Society of Comparative Education and Educational Administration.
- Allan Pitman, professor, University of Western Ontario; editor, *Comparative and International Education: A Diversity of Voices*.

CIERC Staff and Research Fellows

The center is operated and supported by:

- Nagwa Megahed, director
- Samiha Peterson, dean, Graduate School of Education
- GSE Advisory Committee: Russanne Hozayin, Gihan Osman and Ted Purinton
- Senior and junior research fellows
- A network of affiliated national and international scholars
The Graduate School of Education (GSE) at The American University in Cairo initiated its Comparative and International Education Research Center (CIERC) in Fall 2013. The purpose of the CIERC is to produce and disseminate knowledge pertaining to comparative and international educational development at national, regional and global levels. The CIERC aims to fill a major knowledge gap in the availability of bilingual (English – Arabic) contemporary literature in comparative education.

Focusing on educational policy and practice in different world regions, the center seeks to provide an international reference point for domestic reforms in Egypt and beyond. The CIERC plans to provide useful research findings, in comparative perspective, for policymakers, practitioners, scholars and citizens. With this center, educational reformers in Egypt will have access to a wide array of information to assist them in their diverse efforts to improve educational access, equity and excellence at all levels and sectors of education.

Aligned with the Master of Arts in international and comparative education program at the GSE, the center focuses on four key areas: teaching and learning; educational leadership; higher education; and international policy, planning and development.

The center accomplishes its mission by relying on the GSE’s faculty members, graduate students, fellow researchers, and an expansive network of affiliated scholars and institutions. The CIERC also complements the work of the Middle East Institute for Higher Education, as well as the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) development initiative at the GSE, by providing professionalized knowledge for educational policy planning and implementation that integrate national and international discourses and reforms.

Additionally, the CIERC devotes special attention to new scholars in the field of comparative education by creating opportunities for them to build their capacities and promote their contributions in research and educational development projects.

**Vision**

The CIERC serves as a premier network and essential clearinghouse in Egyptian academia, focusing on international educational development and the diffusion of contemporary knowledge in comparative education to support educational reform and development initiatives in national, regional and cross-cultural contexts.

**Mission**

The CIERC is an international hub for disseminating knowledge pertaining to the field of comparative and international education. It conducts research and produces publications for scholars, practitioners and policymakers. It offers capacity-building and expert services in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of development projects, and seeks to establish linkages with national and international comparative education societies and research institutions.

**Strategic Goals**

The CIERC focuses on the following strategic goals:

- Promoting the contributions of Egyptian and Arab scholars in comparative education through the production of bilingual (English – Arabic) publications and the translation of select Arabic and English scholarly work in the field
- Supporting education development by conducting research on critical educational reform issues from comparative perspectives
- Encouraging dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policymakers through research activities such as seminars, symposiums and conferences
- Offering capacity-building opportunities for new scholars and providing expertise services in research, planning, monitoring and evaluation for education development projects
- Creating a network of affiliated education researchers and organizations in Egypt, Africa and across the world in order to facilitate accessibility of human resources, in addition to other types of resources, for contract research, consultancies, and training in education research and evaluation.
- Establishing and maintaining membership in the comparative education community at national, regional and international levels by creating linkages and collaborating with different comparative education societies and research institutions in education and development initiatives. These societies and institutions may include the following: