

# Some Proposal Guidelines

These guidelines help you develop:

- a [title](#) for your presentation
- an [abstract](#) of your research that allows the conference organizers to determine if your topic, research methodology, and findings are appropriate for the conference
- a [summary](#) that very succinctly describes your paper for the conference attendees

Examples for literary and creative works are at the end of this document.

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**Title:** the title for your presentation should be a maximum of 10 words. Try to make your title descriptive, creative, and reflective of your paper, and not too generic, vague, or uninteresting.

Sample titles:

- “Living Room Wars: Power Relations and TV”
- “Connotations of Urfi Marriage: Views of AUCians”
- “Teaching and Learning Technologies: A Case Study at AUC”
- “Bringing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Techniques Closer to AUC”
- “Saving Lives in Establ Antar”
- “Mapping Multi-Religious Communities of Rod al-Farag”

Ineffective titles can often be revised, like the examples below:

- “Street Children”—too vague and generic. With a little more information, it can become “Reintegration of Cairo’s Street Children into Society”
  - “Denied Past, Disputed Future, Entrapped in the Middle”—this is interesting, but the audience has no idea what the subject is. Adding the subject makes it “Denied Past, Disputed Future, Entrapped in the Middle: Palestinians in Israel’s Democracy”
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**Abstract:** the abstract should be about 250 words. It should provide some context, introduce the problem or research question, outline the research methodology, and summarize findings. The purpose of the abstract is to convince the evaluators that your research is relevant and sound, and that your paper will be a worthy addition to the conference. It should be well written.

Examples:

"The Implementation of Online Courses at the AUC"

Nady El-Zayaty, Mariam El Haddad, and Noha Shaker

The American University in Cairo (AUC) is widely considered to be amongst the highest quality, most elite universities in the Arab world. In order for this reputation to remain intact, the AUC must remain on the cutting edge of technology and pedagogy currently being offered by similar institutions. This can be done through the implementation of online courses; a service offered at most American universities and something that is at the forefront of new and emerging trends in learning and teaching. For the purposes of the report, we will focus on three main points: illustrating how implementing online courses can be beneficial to the students, faculty, and the AUC's mission; assessing and addressing the concerns AUC students and faculty have about online courses; and finally, identifying which courses or disciplines would be best suited for the online environment. The information for this report was gathered from various secondary sources: a survey of 100 AUC students and faculty, and interviews with AUC faculty members Dr. Robert S. Williams, Dr. Alison H. Armstrong and Dr. Ahmed El-Zayaty of The University of Findlay. The students filling out our survey represent all academic ranks at AUC and include both males and females from different majors.

"Patriotism and the Motivation and Spirit of Civic Engagement among Undergraduate Students"

Baland Jalal and Sherine Waleed Samir

A wide array of studies conducted in the US has looked at motivational factors leading to increased civic engagement among college students. However, these studies have mostly been conducted in a Western context. By contrast, not much research has explored motivating factors leading to increased civic engagement among college students in Egypt in general, and among students at the American University in Cairo (AUC) in particular. This study not only explores possible determinant factors that may have a say in terms of AUC students deciding to become civically engaged, but also looks at the spirit and excitement that is generated as an outcome of civic engagement. In the study, focus group interviews were conducted with 5 large and active community service clubs at AUC (4-6 leading club members were interviewed during the focus group interviews); and subsequently, the data were analyzed using qualitative thematic coding. In short, this study explores motivating factors leading to increased civic engagements such as patriotism and social consciousness, in conjunction with the excitement and collective spirit of commitment and dedication that is consequently produced. This study is part of the CAMPUS research project.

## “The Grand Egyptian Museum: A Union of Globalization and Nationalism?”

Meredith Brand

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) is a 550 million dollar project. The funding for the construction for this museum is currently being collected from all over the world. The architectural design for the GEM was selected from an international contest of architects. The GEM will however include a permanent collection based on artifacts from Egypt's Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, and Coptic past. This paper will examine to what extent this museum in terms of funds, exhibits, and architecture reflects the seemingly contradictory notions of globalization and nationalism involving Egypt's cultural heritage. The concept of a global museum in terms of architecture and plans for the museum to be available on the internet and global money from international finance will be examined. I will approach this paper by first discussing the initial planning of the museum and examine the mission of GEM so that the globalizing aspects of funding and the architectural plan are placed into a broader context. Second I will discuss theories of nationalism and globalization and how they apply to cultural heritage. Then I will apply theoretical ideas regarding nationalism and examine how they might be relevant to the funding, design, and exhibits of the GEM. Finally I will compare and discuss how nationalism and globalization combine in the GEM and what this might mean for Egypt's cultural heritage.

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**Summary:** the summary should be about 50 words. This is what conference attendees will read in the program book, so it should be clear, but also enticing. It should be well written with no grammatical mistakes.

Examples:

### “Unspoken Premises: A Discursive Analysis of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”

Hedayat Heikal

The MDGs are popularly perceived as the universal development regime of the early 21st century. But what is development? Few theorists agree on the definition of development, let alone its form, purpose or desirability. Some dismiss the project of development altogether as a neocolonial discourse of power. Where do the MDGs fall within this overall discourse of development? There are assumptions and implications for Egypt's choice to meet the MDGs. This research is an attempt at uncovering the unspoken premises.

### "Egyptian Culture and the Role of AUC"

Iraj Sheidaee

Edward Said often lamented the reception of his book *Orientalism* in the Arab world, saying that it was not as deeply understood there as elsewhere. Indeed, Arab intellectual life appears to be in a crisis. This presentation examines the nature of this crisis, how it bears upon teaching and learning at AUC, and

how can we define AUC's unique position within the cultural and intellectual landscape of Egypt and the Arab world.

"Patriotism and the Motivation and Spirit of Civic Engagement among Undergraduate Students"

Baland Jalal and Sherine Waleed Samir

What are some of the motivating factors that lead to increased civic engagement among students at an Egyptian/American institution such as AUC? This qualitative focus group study of five community service clubs at AUC explores motivating factors leading to increased civic engagements such as patriotism and social consciousness, as well as the excitement and collective spirit of dedication that is consequently produced.

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Samples of Proposals for Literary and Creative Works

"Takers"

Maha Tarek and Mohamed Khalil

**Summary:** "Takers" is a work of fiction that depicts the difficult circumstances of life in a war-torn region, and sheds light on the role of journalism in such circumstances. The presentation focuses on the issues of children and imbedded journalists.

**Abstract:** Our short story "Takers" is a work of fiction that depicts the difficult circumstances of life (for children as well as adults) in a war-torn region in the Middle East (namely the West Bank), and sheds light on the role of journalism in such circumstances. The presentation focuses on the issues of children in the midst of war and on the imbedded journalists. The main character is an imbedded European journalist who goes through an initiation which changes him deeply when he is sent to film a report on life in a street that was more or less leveled to the ground by Israeli tanks, but whose inhabitants continue to live in it. The journalist, who had forgotten why he became a journalist, is forced to go through a rather traumatic experience after which he is not the same. The psychology of the children living on the street is also a matter of great interest. They seem to be quite happy when they shouldn't, and they have made games out of the most morbid chores imaginable. The story is based on newspaper articles and observation of images presented on news channels.

"Memoirs of a Street Child"

Nina Fatouh Salem and Shahira Hussein Marei

**Summary:** This project examines the rapidly growing problem of street children in Egypt, presented in the form of a research-based short story, which examines the daily lives of the children, working and/or

living on the streets of Cairo, who are subject to extreme harsh conditions, along with studying current and possible future efforts to combat this issue.

**Abstract:** While the number of street children in Egypt has been rapidly increasing over the past decades, it was not until recently that it has started to attract attention and has been recognized as a problem of great magnitude requiring immediate action. In our research, we explore the phenomenon of street children in Egypt, its causes and the many greatly influencing factors, with the purpose of raising awareness of the issue. The project includes a study and close examination of the research made on this phenomenon in the form of a literature review. Once integrated with our primary research, it evolves into a research-based short story about street children in Egypt. By presenting our research in the form of a short story, we intend to raise awareness of the magnitude of this rapidly growing problem, by reaching an audience who react more greatly to a creative mode of expression. Hopefully, this research will not only raise awareness of the phenomenon of street children, but also examine possible effective approaches to combating such an intense and complex problem.