

Conference Chairs

Dr/ Ghada Barsoum

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Public Policy and Administration



Ghada Barsoum is associate professor and tenured at the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Her research focuses on issues of youth, gender, employment and poverty. She was recently the principal investigator of a study on informality in Egypt in collaboration with the UNDP regional office. Prior to joining AUC, She was research associate at the Population Council, West Asia and North Africa Office. Barsoum is the author of a book on the employment crisis of female graduates in Egypt and a number of papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr/ Shahjahan Bhuiyan

Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Undergraduate Studies and Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research



Shahjahan Bhuiyan is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration (PPAD). He is also the associate dean for administration, undergraduate studies, and public outreach in the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP). Bhuiyan is former chair of PPAD. His teaching and research are in the areas of public management, governance, public policy, non-profit management, human resources management, service delivery and sustainable development. Prior to joining AUC, he served as dean of the College of Social Sciences at KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. He also chaired KIMEP University's Public Administration Department for two consecutive terms. He was a visiting research fellow in the Oxford Institute of Population Aging (OIA) at Oxford University (2010) and the Inaugural Democratic Governance Fellow in UNDP's Oslo Governance Center (2013).

Dr /Gerda Heck

Assistant Professor, department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology

Gerda Heck has a shared position as assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) at The



American University in Cairo. Prior to this, she held positions at the University of Cologne, the European Viadrina University Frankfurt/Oder, the Georg August University Göttingen, and at the Weissensee School of Arts in Berlin (Germany). Her academic work and research focus on migration and border regimes, urban studies, transnational migration, migrant networks and self-organizing, religion and new concepts of citizenship. She has conducted research in Germany, Brazil, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Morocco, Turkey and the USA.

Apart from her own research projects, she has participated in various international research projects. From 2010 to 2013, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the international and interdisciplinary research project, Global Prayers – Redemption and Liberation in the City. In 2016, she conducted research in Turkey within the scope of the international research project, Transit Migration 2: A Research Project on the De- and Re-Stabilizations of the European Border Regime. She is a member of kritnet: Network for Critical Migration- and Border-Regime Research.

Dr/ Malak Zaalouk

Professor of Practice and Director, Graduate School of Education



Malak Zaalouk is professor of practice and the director of Graduate School of Educations (GSE) Middle East Institute of Higher Education. Malak has previously served as UNICEF Regional Senior Education Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She led the founding of Egyptian community schools and has promoted girls' education and quality education reform and has been a noted global leader on issues of human rights and gender equity. She has published widely on issues of development in both English and Arabic. Malak holds a diploma in educational planning from the International Institute of Educational Planning IIEP in Paris, a PhD in social anthropology from the University of Hull, an MA in sociology from the American University in Cairo, and a BA in political science from The American University in Cairo. Her research interests include political economy of reform and social change, gender, education

and development, empowerment, participation and development, liberation education, comparative education, quality education, community participation and education, transitions from school to life.

Dr/ Hania Sholkamy



Associate Professor, Social Research Center

Hania Sholkamy is an Egyptian anthropologist with a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences of the University of London. She obtained her BA and MA from The American University in Cairo (AUC). She is currently an associate research professor at the Social Research Center of the AUC. She has spent a decade working on social protection issues and has designed and piloted the cash transfers programs of the government of Egypt in her capacity as special advisor to the minister of social solidarity.

She is a proponent of feminist social protection and has lobbied for the right of women to receive welfare and pensions in their own right and not as dependents. She was regional coordinator of the Pathways to Women's Empowerment Research Consortium in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, United Kingdom.

Prior to her current position, she was served as an assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Egyptology at AUC, worked as a research associate at the International Population Council and was the Ioma Evans Pritchard Junior Research Fellow at St. Anne's College of Oxford University. Her research interests and publications mainly revolve around the fields of poverty, health, particularly reproductive health, gender, population and qualitative methods. She has co-edited two volumes, one titled *Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and Historical Studies in Critical Demography* (OUP) with S. Szreter and A. Dharmalingam and another titled *Health and Identity in Egypt* (AUC press) with F. Ghannam.

Dr/ Abeer Elshennawy

Associate Professor, Department of Economics



Abeer Elshennawy received a BA in economics from Cairo University, an MA in economics from The American University in Cairo and a PhD in applied economics from the University Minnesota in the United States. She is currently an associate professor at the economics department at AUC. She has taught a variety of courses in the area of environmental economics, growth and development, macroeconomic and micro economic theory. She also worked as a senior economist at the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies in Cairo. She helped conduct applied research to promote the role of the private sector in the development of the Egyptian economy and identify the constraints that might impede this role. Her research interests are in international trade, the environment, and growth and development. She has published a number of articles addressing the issue of adjustment costs to trade liberalization, water pollution, etc.