Comparative Education

- Source: E. Epstein in *The International Encyclopedia of Education*
  Torsten Husén, T. Neville Postlethwaite (eds.).

- "'Comparative education' and 'international education' are often confused. The former refers to a field of study that applies historical, philosophical, and social science theories and methods to international problems in education. Its equivalents in other fields of academic study are those dedicated to the transsocietal study of other social institutions, such as comparative government, comparative economics, and comparative religion. Comparative education is primarily an academic and interdisciplinary pursuit."
International Education

• Source: E. Epstein in *The International Encyclopedia of Education*
  Torsten Husén, T. Neville Postlethwaite (eds.).

• "International education [...] fosters an international orientation in knowledge and attitudes and, among other initiatives, brings together students, teachers, and scholars from different nations to learn about and from each other. International education also includes the analysis and description of such activities. Many practitioners of international education are experts on international exchange and interaction. Their activities are partly based on a knowledge of comparative education. However, there is some disagreement on the specific range of activities encompassed by international education. Halls (1989) categorized it as a subfield of comparative education, consisting of 'international pedagogy'. This would include such items as education for international understanding, internationalization of teaching norms, and the study of international education institutions. Others characterize it as an applied field attached to comparative education."
Comparative VS International


- Comparativists, as distinct from international educators, are primarily scholars interested in explaining why educational systems and processes vary and how education relates to wider social factors and forces. International education tends to focus more directly on descriptive information about nations and societies and their education systems and structures. International educators use findings derived from comparative education to understand better the educational processes they examine, and thus to enhance their ability to make policy relating to programs such as those associated with international exchange and understanding."