

*Department of Economics, University of Nairobi, in collaboration with J-PAL Africa*

## **Webinar: Research opportunities for African Scholars on digital ID and payment systems randomised evaluations**

The Department of Economics, University of Nairobi, in collaboration with [J-PAL Africa](#), invites you to a webinar on randomised evaluation research funding opportunities available to African Scholars. This webinar will be facilitated by the Digital identification and Finance Initiative ([DigiFI Africa](#)) - a research initiative at J-PAL Africa. It will focus on research questions on digital ID and payment systems and available [funding opportunities](#).

Register [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KOOY64hZS0ePbRolqAlzfg) ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KOOY64hZS0ePbRolqAlzfg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KOOY64hZS0ePbRolqAlzfg)). You will be sent a unique Zoom link once you have registered.

### **About J-PAL and DigiFI Africa**

[J-PAL](#) is an international research centre that works to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by rigorous evidence. J-PAL works with top academic economists, governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to conduct randomised evaluations to understand the impact of social programmes.

[DigiFI Africa](#) is part of J-PAL and focuses on funding rigorous evidence on the use of digital payments and identification systems to improve lives in sub-Saharan Africa. Policymakers across Africa are increasingly investing in large-scale digital identification and digital payment systems. Because these systems are new, little rigorous research exists on how best to design and implement such systems in low-income contexts. How do these rapid changes affect the lives of citizens? How can they best be structured to lead to the most benefit? Are any groups adversely affected by these reforms? DigiFI clusters research around these questions, creating and funding randomized evaluations, monitoring systems, and pilots, and generating results that provide guidance on critical design questions as reforms go to scale.

DigiFI funds local scholars' research projects on digital identification and payment systems in Africa and local scholars are especially encouraged to apply for research funding. It also provides training and scholarships. DigiFI provides funding to:

- Resident African Scholars - those who have completed a PhD and are based in an African academic institution.
- Non-resident African Scholars - those who completed high school in Africa, have a PhD, and are based in an academic institution outside of Africa.

**Date and time:** 2 August 2021, 4:00pm - 5:30 pm East African Time, on Zoom

**Agenda:**

- Opening remarks: **Director, Department of Economics**; University of Nairobi
- Introduction to J-PAL and the Digital Identification and Finance Initiative (DigiFI Africa): **Nidhi Parekh, Director, DigiFI Africa**
- Opportunities for African Scholars, including tips to write a successful grant application: **Aimee Hare, Policy Manager, J-PAL Africa**
- Question and Answer
- Session Moderator: **Dr. Joy Kiiru, Senior Lecturer**, Department of Economics

Please register [here](#). The Zoom link will be sent to you once registered. We look forward to engaging with you at the event!