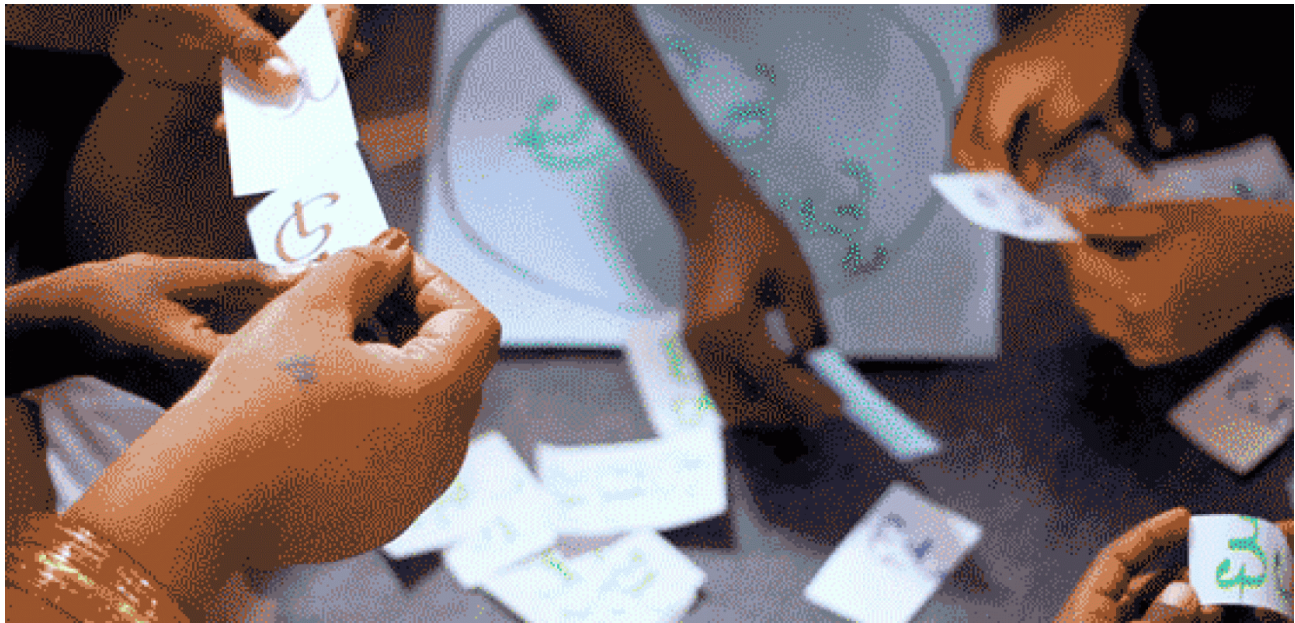


# October 2019 Newsletter

October 1, 2019



NEWSLETTER  
October 2019

## Teaching at the Right Level to improve learning

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) is an educational approach developed by the Indian NGO Pratham that aims to build foundational skills in math and reading for all primary school aged children. Six randomized evaluations by J-PAL affiliated professors over fifteen years show that TaRL has improved learning in a wide variety of contexts. The collaborative partnership with J-PAL has helped Pratham innovate, evaluate, refine, and adapt TaRL over time—TaRL has now reached over 60 million children in India and is beginning to be scaled up in several countries across Africa. [Learn more](#) and [watch the video](#) »

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## Introducing new J-PAL affiliates

This summer, J-PAL welcomed three new professors to our academic network: [Jie Bai](#) at Harvard University, [Joshua Blumenstock](#) at the University of California, Berkeley, and [Saumitra Jha](#) at Stanford University. Their research interests include the relationship between firm growth and corruption, addressing violence and political polarization, and the intersection of machine learning and development economics. [Meet our new affiliates »](#)

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## A new platform for datasets from randomized evaluations

J-PAL and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) recently announced the creation of the new [Datahub for Field Experiments in Economics and Public Policy](#). In recent years, our organizations have made more than 140 datasets available from studies conducted by researchers around the world. This new joint effort brings together our two dataverses to facilitate the search and discovery of new and existing datasets from field experiments by J-PAL, IPA, and affiliated researchers. [Read more »](#)

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### FEATURED PUBLICATION

## J-PAL Evidence Review sheds light on promising approaches to reduce and prevent homelessness

In the United States, more than 500,000 people experience homelessness on a given night, and 1.4 million people pass through emergency shelters each year. The struggle for stable housing is shaped by numerous factors, including employment opportunities, housing market dynamics, and financial stability.

A new [NBER working paper](#) from J-PAL affiliated professor [William Evans](#) (Notre Dame) and co-authors David C. Phillips and Krista J. Ruffini analyzed forty randomized evaluations of homelessness interventions. J-PAL North America's Evidence Review highlights the paper's key research findings on policies that help people access and maintain stable, affordable housing. [Read the review »](#)

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### EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

## Information and enforcement to reduce overfishing

In Chile, overfishing of Pacific hake presents a formidable environmental and economic challenge. J-PAL affiliated professor [Mushfiq Mobarak](#) (Yale) and co-author Andres Gonzalez-Lira partnered

with the Chilean National Fish Service to evaluate strategies for ensuring compliance with a seasonal fishing ban on Pacific hake. Informed by the results, the government expanded its consumer awareness campaign and adapted its enforcement tactics. [Read more »](#)

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## AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

### Lisa Cameron on studying gender and economics

As a Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, [Lisa Cameron](#) has dedicated much of her career as an empirical and behavioral economist to researching how economic issues impact women. Her recent projects include studying the barriers to female labor force participation and meeting with female migrants to learn about their experiences seeking work overseas. [Read our profile »](#)

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## FEATURED MULTIMEDIA

### Seema Jayachandran on engaging local communities to mitigate climate change

Climate change is a global problem, and countries seeking to address it can learn from global insights on the best ways to do so without inflicting further economic hardship. In our September Data, Decisions, Public Policy (D<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup>) talk, J-PAL affiliated professor [Seema Jayachandran](#) (Northwestern; Chair, J-PAL Gender sector) discussed approaches to mitigating climate change by reducing deforestation in low-income countries. [Watch now »](#)

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## UPCOMING COURSES

### Enroll now: Measuring Health Outcomes in Field Surveys

This eight-week course focuses on the fundamentals of field-based health research using real-world case studies from India and Kenya, combined with exercises that provide practical insights on general concepts like study design, measurement, and data collection. The course began October 2, but enrollment is still open. [Learn more and register »](#)

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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[Behavioral economics could increase Obamacare enrollment and stabilize markets](#)

UCLA Anderson Review

[Release: Government of Haryana partners with J-PAL South Asia to improve health care through data analytics](#)

J-PAL

[A market for emissions, with incentives to cut pollution](#)

The Hindu

[How helping families relocate could increase economic mobility](#)

The Economist

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## NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

[Valuing Peace: The Effects of Financial Market Exposure on Votes and Political Attitudes](#)

Saumitra Jha, Moses Shayo

[Gender Gaps in Technology Diffusion](#)

Ariel Ben Yishay, Maria Jones, Florence Kondylis, Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak

[What Do Workplace Wellness Programs Do? Evidence from the Illinois Workplace Wellness Study](#)

Damon Jones, David Molitor, Julian Reif

[An Experimental Evaluation of Three Teacher Quality Measures: Value-added, Classroom Observations, and Student Surveys](#)

Andrew Bacher-Hicks, Mark J. Chin, Thomas J. Kane, Douglas O. Staiger

[Impact of Reinforcing Agro Dealer Networks on Agricultural Productivity in Niger](#)

Adam Mamadou, Robert Darko Osei, Isaac Osei-Akoto

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## FEATURED JOBS

Policy Manager, J-PAL Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Finance and Operations Manager, J-PAL Global, Cambridge, MA, US

General Data Research Associate, J-PAL Global, Cambridge, MA, US

IT Manager, J-PAL Global, Cambridge, MA, US

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, J-PAL North America, Cambridge, MA, US

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, J-PAL Southeast Asia, Jakarta, Indonesia

[Explore open positions around the world »](#)

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The [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab \(J-PAL\)](#) is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. Anchored by a network of more than 180 affiliated professors at universities around the world, J-PAL draws on results from randomized impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. We build partnerships with governments, NGOs, donors, and others to share this knowledge, scale up effective programs, and advance evidence-informed decision-making. J-PAL was launched at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2003 and has regional centers in Africa, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.