J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

Standing in solidarity with Black communities

We at J-PAL North America grieve and condemn the ongoing displays of police violence and systemic racism in the United States and acknowledge the physical and emotional distress they cause. This grief and trauma is especially deep for Black communities, and for our staff, partners, and affiliated researchers who belong to them. Recent events—from the murder of George Floyd and countless other Black individuals by the state, to the deployment of race as a tool of intimidation by Amy Cooper in Central Park—are manifestations of the same anti-Black, racist social structures that have led to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affecting communities of color.

As a research center within the field of economics, we intend to do our part to continue the work of self examination, change, and movement building to combat the decades of institutionalized racism with which our field is only now beginning to come to terms.

Read the full statement »

J-PAL launches Jobs and Opportunity Initiative

J-PAL's new Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (JOI) works to identify strategies to address some of the most pressing labor market challenges in low- and middle-income countries. With support from Google.org, JOI funds randomized evaluations focused on three key thematic areas: job training and matching, job creation, and the future of jobs. Since its launch, JOI has focused on responses to COVID-19's disruption of jobs and livelihoods, funding eight projects across three continents. Read more »

Photo: Tonathan Torgovnik | Getty Images

COVID-19 update: Learn more about J-PAL's response

FEATURED PUBLICATION

Biometric tracking to improve health

care services for tuberculosis

Limited monitoring capacity, data quality, and internet connectivity can make it challenging to control the spread of tuberculosis, the leading infectious disease killer in the world. In India, J-PAL affiliated professor Vincent Pons (Harvard Business School) and co-authors tested the impact of electronic biometric tracking technology on tuberculosis patient health outcomes, provider performance, and accuracy of patient data. The technology increased the likelihood that patients adhered to treatment, improved provider performance, and reduced misreporting of patient data by providers. Read more »
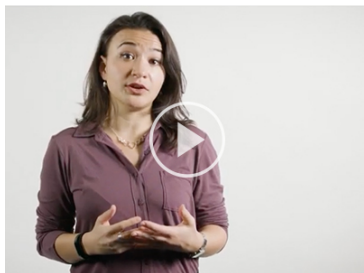
Improving child development with play

Early childhood, from the ages of 0 to 5, is a critical period for long-term development. A review of 17 randomized evaluations shows that encouraging caregivers to play and interact with children in a stimulating way improves children's cognitive development. However, open questions remain on how to effectively deliver these programs at scale. Read more »

Video: Unpacking the evidence on motivating lifelong lifestyle changes

J-PAL affiliated professor Rebecca Dizon-Ross (University of Chicago) unpacks the evidence from a randomized evaluation of a program that aims to motivate lifelong lifestyle changes among those with diabetes or pre-diabetes in Tamil Nadu, India. Watch now »

Elise Huillery on students'

motivation to learn

Elise Huillery (Paris Dauphine University) believes education is the key to overcoming entrenched poverty. For her, the question is not only whether a person has access to education, but also what drives students to value and pursue education. Read more »

Open enrollment: MicroMasters summer semester

The next semester of our online MicroMasters program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) began on June 2, but enrollment is open until July 1. Through a series of five online courses and in-person exams, learners will engage with cutting-edge field research and gain a strong foundation in microeconomics, development economics, and probability and statistics.

Students who complete the full DEDP credential are eligible to apply for the Master's program in DEDP at MIT. Learn more and register »

Enroll now in J-PAL 101x: Evaluating Social Programs

Enroll in J-PAL's online Evaluating Social Programs course before August 14. This is a free, self-paced course to learn how to use randomized evaluations to rigorously measure the impact of social programs. Through lectures from renowned MIT faculty and J-PAL affiliated professors, along with case studies from real randomized evaluations, participants will cover topics ranging from how to effectively measure outcomes and choose an appropriate sample size to common threats to analysis. Learn more »

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Averting a crisis in preventive healthcare (Opinion)
Asian Venture Philanthropy Network

Lessons from Sierra Leone's Ebola pandemic on the impact of school closures on girls (Opinion)
The Conversation

Nobel Prize winner Esther Duflo probes effectiveness of virus warnings
The Telegraph

Opportunities, challenges, and strategies for evidence production and use in the COVID era: 3ie's expert panel weighs in
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

How Vocational Education Made Women Better Off but Left Men Behind
Paloma Acevedo, Guillermo Cruces, Paul Gertler, Sebastian Martinez

Losing Prosociality in the Quest for Talent? Sorting, Selection, and Productivity in the Delivery of Public Services
Nava Ashraf, Oriana Bandiera, Edward Davenport, Scott S. Lee

Interlinked Transactions and Competition: Experimental Evidence from Cocoa Markets
Lorenzo Casaburi, Tristan Reed

Saving for Multiple Financial Needs: Evidence from Lockboxes and Mobile Money in Malawi
Shilpa Aggarwal, Valentina Brailovskaya, Jonathan Robinson

FEATURED JOBS

While we are not currently conducting in-person interviews, we are still hiring for a number of open positions.

Senior Data Associate, Cape Town, South Africa
Deputy Director, Employment Lab, Rabat, Morocco
Senior Finance and Operations Associate, Employment Lab, Rabat, Morocco
Project Associate, Employment Lab, Rabat, Morocco
Director of Research, Education, and Training, Cambridge, MA, US
Associate Director of Research and Training, Cambridge, MA, US
Development Coordinator, Cambridge, MA, US
Development Officer, Cambridge, MA, US
Policy Manager, New Delhi, India
Research Manager, New Delhi, India
Research Manager, Environment, Energy, & Climate Change, New Delhi, India
Training Manager, New Delhi, India

Explore open positions around the world »

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 190 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.

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology