

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL

Poverty Action Lab

J-PAL EUROPE



TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

EVALUATING SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Brussels, September 12-16, 2011

J-PAL Europe Executive Education Course



We are very grateful to the Solvay Brussels School and the Université Libre de Bruxelles for its support and its help to organize this course



J-PAL EUROPE

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WELCOME!

Each year, professors affiliated with J-PAL (the Jameel Poverty Action Lab) train dozens of people in the use of randomized evaluations. This year the Executive Education courses are also being held in Cambridge (USA), in Mexico, in Buenos Aires (Argentina), and in Lahore (Pakistan). J-PAL Europe organizes courses that annually alternate between English and French.

Due to the diversity of groups we welcome, each of these courses is unique.

Among you are people from NGOs, Northern and Southern governments, research institutes, and international organizations spanning 10 different countries around the world.

Some of you have already run research projects, others have a great deal of experience in operational work on the field. Some of you are statistic experts, while others are specialists on health, education or agriculture areas. During this week, we will touch on all of these areas, enriching our course.

You have the opportunity to build relationships with other practitioners of randomized evaluations in different areas and contexts. We hope that you will find that common interests and new partnerships and projects will take shape during the week.

With this course, we hope to train you to conduct your own randomized evaluations. After the course, we remain at your disposal to bring you help and counseling, for questions about sample size or to help you to think about the evaluation of a specific program. Don't hesitate to contact us!

We wish you an interesting and productive week!



Hélène Giacobino
Director
J-PAL Europe

J-PAL: RESEARCHERS AGAINST POVERTY

Founded in 2003, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a network of researchers based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA. In 2007, **J-PAL Europe** was officially launched at the Paris School of Economics, and **J-PAL South Asia** was founded at the Institute for Financial Management and Research in Chennai, India. In 2009, **J-PAL Latin America** was launched at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile, and in 2010 **J-PAL Africa** was founded at the University of Cape Town.

J-PAL is a network of 53 researchers from all over the world. Since 2003 they have conducted more than 250 randomized evaluations of anti-poverty programs, of which 100 are already completed.

J-PAL works to improve the lives of the poor by ensuring that development policy is based on scientific evidence, collected through randomized evaluations.



WHAT DOES J-PAL DO?

J-PAL has three central objectives:

1. **Rigorous Evaluation of Development Projects:** J-PAL researchers are at the forefront of randomized evaluations, developing methodologies that allow an element of randomization to be introduced into programs in a way that is compatible with the constraints on the ground. As such, J-PAL researchers work on projects ranging from the evaluation of job search support programs in France, microfinance programs in rural Morocco, anti-corruption measures in India, and school feeding in Niger.

2. **Capacity Building:** Every year, J-PAL runs executive education courses in several locations around the world. These courses have trained hundreds of practitioners in more than 40 countries. Many of these practitioners have gone on to make significant contributions to randomized evaluations, either alone or in conjunction with J-PAL.

3. **Diffusion of Results:** J-PAL has also been very successful at promoting evidence-based policy through papers, conferences, seminars, and capacity building. Policymakers are increasingly using the evidence generated by J-PAL evaluations to guide their decisions. For example, findings on the impacts of school-based deworming have influenced government policy in Kenya and elsewhere.



J-PAL FUNDING

In 2005, J-PAL received a substantial gift from Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, an MIT alumnus and generous supporter of poverty alleviation initiatives around the world. The Poverty Action Lab was renamed in honor of his father, Abdul Latif Jameel.

Other donors and financial supporters include the Economic and Social Research Council, Swedish International Development Agency, DFID, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the National Institute of Health, the World Bank, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Haut Commissariat aux Solidarités Actives Contre la Pauvreté, the Institute Veolia Environnement, and the National Science Foundation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 12

9:00 – 9:30	<i>Participant Registration/ Welcome Coffee & Tea</i>
9:30 – 11:00	<u>Lecture 1: Evaluation: What, Why, When?</u> Lecturer: <i>Florencia DEVOTO (Paris School of Economics, J-PAL)</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Case Study 1: Theory of Change
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<u>Lecture 2: Outcomes, Indicators and Measuring Impact</u> Lecturer: <i>Philippe ZAMORA (ENSAE/ CREST, J-PAL)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 18:30	Group Project Work

Tuesday, September 13

9:00 – 10:30	Case Study 2: Why Randomize
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<u>Lecture 3: Why Randomize?</u> Lecturer: <i>William PARIENTÉ (Université Catholique de Louvain, J-PAL)</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<u>Lecture 4: How to Randomize?</u> Lecturer: <i>Marc GURGAND (Paris School of Economics, J-PAL)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Case Study 3: How to Randomize
17:00 – 17:30	Exercise 1: Sampling Distributions
17:30 – 18:30	Group Project Work
20:00 – 22:00	<i>Group Dinner</i>

Wednesday, September 14

9:00 – 10:15	Group Project Work
10:15 – 10h30	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>

10:30 – 12:30	<u>Lecture 5: Planning Sample Size</u> Lecturer: <i>Roland RATHELOT (CREST, J-PAL)</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Exercise 2: Power Calculations
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 18:30	Group Project Work

Thursday, September 15

9:00 – 10:30	Case Study 4: Threats to Analysis
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<u>Lecture 6: Threats and Analysis</u> Lecturer: <i>Karen MACOURS (Paris School of Economics, J-PAL)</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<u>Lecture 7: Start to Finish</u> Lecturer: <i>Bruno CRÉPON (CREST/ENSAE/Ecole Polytechnique, J-PAL)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 18:30	Finalize Group Project Presentation

Friday, September 16

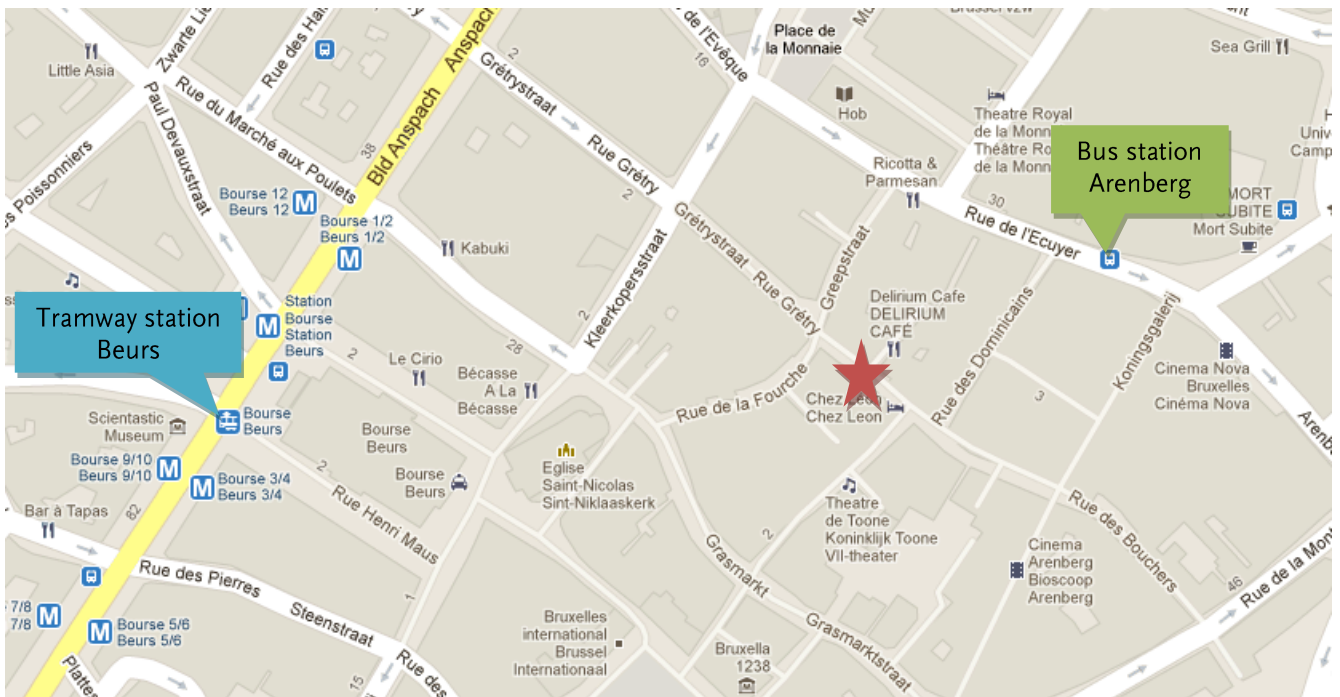
9:00 – 10:30	Group Presentations
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12h30	Group Presentations
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Group Presentations
16:00 – 16:30	Concluding Remarks

Tuesday 13th Dinner

Aux Armes de Bruxelles

13 rue des Bouchers
1000 Brussels
Belgium

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Tramway: line 3 and line 4, station Beurs/ Bourse.

Bus: line 29, 38, 63, 66 and 71, station Arenberg, going to "De Brouckère"

LECTURERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Bruno CRÉPON is a researcher at the Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique (CREST) as well as an Associate Professor at ENSAE and École Polytechnique. His research centers on policy evaluation, with a particular focus on labor market policies. Bruno Crépon is a J-PAL Europe affiliate, and a member of J-PAL's Executive Committee.
bruno.crepon@ensae.fr

Florencia DEVOTO manages IPA Morocco (Innovations for Poverty Action). She is a J-PAL Europe affiliate as well. She currently conducts several evaluations, in particular in the areas of education and microcredit.
fdevoto@povertyactionlab.org

Hélène GIACOBINO manages J-PAL Europe. She contributes to spread the work of J-PAL intervening in several conferences through Europe. She also participates in randomized evaluations in Europe and in Africa, and on confidence within companies.
hgiacobino@povertyactionlab.org

Marc GURGAND is an Associate Professor at the Paris School of Economics. His research focuses on labor market policies, schooling, and inequality in both developing and developed countries. He is currently conducting randomized evaluations of counseling schemes focused on the unemployed and welfare recipients. He also has a research program studying inequality in China. He is a J-PAL Europe affiliate, and the Scientific Director of the J-PAL Europe office.
gurgand@pse.ens.fr

Karen MACOURS is an Associate Professor at the Paris School of Economics and researcher at INRA. Her current research focuses on conditional cash transfer programs, early childhood development, rural poverty, and agriculture.
karen.macours@parisschoolofeconomics.eu

William PARIENTÉ is a professor of Economics at the department of Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. His research focuses on access to credit, poverty and health issues. He is currently working on several randomized evaluations in Morocco and Pakistan. He is a member of J-PAL Europe affiliate.
william.pariente@parisschoolofeconomics.eu

Roland RATHELOT is a researcher at the Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique (CREST). His areas of interest include labor economics, public economics and economics of immigration, with a particular focus on the spatial dimension. He is currently conducting randomized evaluations of counseling programs dedicated to the youth in France.

roland.rathelot@ensae.fr

Philippe ZAMORA is a researcher at the Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique (CREST) in Paris. His research is focused on vocational training and labor market policies. He is a member of J-PAL Europe affiliate.

philippe.zamora@ensae.fr

ASSISTANTS' BIOGRAPHIES

Adrien BOUGUEN joined J-PAL Europe in October 2009 and is currently contributing to two randomized evaluations in the school district of Creteil aiming at reducing absenteeism and providing equal opportunities for underprivileged high school students.
abouguen@povertyactionlab.org

Rosalinda COPPOLETTA is a Ph-D student in Economics at the Center of Recherche en Économie et Statistique (CREST) and an Administrator at INSEE. She's currently working on two randomized evaluations with J-PAL Europe, Tulle and POLLEN, financed by the Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Solidarités Actives.
rosalinda.coppoletta@ensae.fr

Axelle CHARPENTIER joined J-PAL Europe in October 2010 where she is currently contributing to the randomized evaluation of two education programs providing boarding schools for secondary students from disadvantaged backgrounds and reinforcing the link between parents and middle schools in France.
acharpentier@povertyactionlab.org

Vera CHIODI joined J-PAL in May 2008 and is currently working on three randomized evaluations focusing on education and housing in France and on educational vocational training in Mauritania.
chiodi@pse.ens.fr

Juliette SEBAN joined J-PAL in 2008. She is currently working on two randomized evaluations of programs that aim to increase youth employment and entrepreneurship in France as well as one on the impact of different HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Cameroon.
jseban@povertyactionlab.org

Victor POULIQUEN joined J-PAL in 2008 and is currently working on three randomized evaluations focusing on education and health in Morocco, Ghana and Kenya. The first evaluation looks at the impact of a conditional cash transfer program in education in rural Morocco, the second looks at the effect of a scholarships program in secondary education in Ghana, and the third one looks at the impact of different HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Kenya.
vpouliquen@povertyactionlab.org

Participants List

Name	Organisation	Country of work
AZARYEVA Anna	UNICEF	UNITED STATES
BANERJEA Bijoya	DAI Europe Ltd.	UNITED KINGDOM
BLEHAUT Marianne	J-PAL Europe	FRANCE
CHERRIER Cécile	UNICEF	ITALY
CIESLIK Katarzyna	Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	POLAND
CLAUSS Daniel	EuropeAid	BELGIUM
COULIBALY Mamoutou	Stromme Foundation	MALI
COULIBALY Solimane	Stromme Foundation	MALI
D'AOUST Olivia	Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	BELGIUM
DANCHEV Plamen Nikolov	World Bank	BULGARIA
DILLENDER Rebecca	U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs	UNITED STATES
GARSOUS Grégoire	ECARES	BELGIUM
GORDON Jessica	International Rescue Committee UK	UNITED KINGDOM

HARTWIG Renate	Erasmus University Rotterdam	NETHERLANDS
IOMMI Gabrio	Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena	ITALY
KAGAN Sophia	International Labour Office for China and Mongolia	CHINA
LAURETI Caroline	Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	BELGIUM
MALKA RUGEMA Faith	Office of the President of Rwanda	RWANDA
NABALAMBA Alice	African Development Bank Group	TUNISIA
OSBORNE Kimberle	Women for Women International	UNITED STATES
PAMIES-SUMNER Stéphanie	AFD Group	FRANCE
PATERSON Anna	Department For International Development	UNITED KINGDOM
PETRACCO Carly	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UNITED KINGDOM
SØREIDE Tina	Chr. Michelsen Institute	NORWAY
SPÖRRI Franziska	University of Zurich, Institute for Political Science	SWITZERLAND
SZAFARZ Ariane	Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	BELGIUM
TABA Marius	Roma Education Fund	HUNGARY
THERY Olivier	Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation	BELGIUM
THOLOZAN Chantal	Union des Centres Sociaux des Bouches du Rhône	FRANCE
VERWIMP Philippe	Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	BELGIUM
ZAMPINI Daniela	International Labour Organization	ALBANIA

GROUP WORK INSTRUCTIONS

You will be assigned to groups of 5-6 people. We will do our best to ensure that each group includes participants with a range of different experiences but some common areas of interest. You will carry out two types of activities within these groups:

1. Case studies and discussions
2. Preparation of group proposal



Case studies and Discussions

Each case study covers a specific set of topics corresponding to the lectures for each day of the course. The cases provide background on one (or in some cases two) specific evaluations which will be referred to in the lectures. In addition, each case includes discussion topics designed to get you thinking about the issues prior to the lectures. Some of the cases also include exercises for you to complete. You will be provided with Excel files containing these exercises at the start of the “group work” sessions. You will be expected to read the relevant case, go through the discussion topics, and complete the exercises before the related lecture on the case.

Group Proposal

Each group will, over the course of the week, work on a proposal for an evaluation on a topic of their choice. Different aspects of evaluation will be covered in the lectures and the

casework, and these should be reflected in the group proposal. On Friday, each group will present their proposal and receive comments from the other participants and the lecturers. This is an ideal time to get feedback on an evaluation you may be planning.

The outputs for the project will be:

1. 20-minute presentation (with an additional 10 minutes for questions and feedback).
2. 3-4 page summary of the proposal.

Both the presentation and the note should cover the following issues:

1. The objective and rationale of the evaluation—what is the question you are asking and why is it important or interesting?
2. Randomization design—how will the treatment and control groups be determined, and at what level will the randomization take place?
3. Measurement issues—how will you measure whether the program is a success? On what variables will data be collected? How will it be collected? In addition to final outcome measures, will you be collecting data on the mechanism by which the program works? If so, what data will you collect on this?
4. What magnitude of effect will you be trying to detect? What is the sample size you will be using? Why is this the correct sample size?
5. What are the risks to the integrity of the evaluation? How will you seek to minimize these?
6. How will the data be analyzed?
7. How will you use the results of the evaluation? How will the results impact future policy/programs?

WORK GROUPS

Group 1

Assistant: Juliette

Katarzyna Cieslik
Daniel Claus
Stéphanie Pamies
Anna Paterson
Olivier Théry

Group 2

Assistant: Victor

Anna Azaryeva
Solimane Coulibaly
Alice Nabalamba
Carly Petracco
Tina Soreide

Group 3

Assistant: Rosalinda

Cécile Cherrier
Grégoire Garsous
Sophia Kagan
Faith Malka Rugema
Chantal Tholozan

Group 4

Assistant: Adrien

Marianne Bléhaut
Plamen Danchev
Kimberle Osborne
Marius Taba
Daniela Zampini

Group 5

Assistant: Axelle

Bijoya Banerjea
Rebecca Dillender
Gabrio Iommi
Caroline Laureti
Franziska Spörri
Ariane Szafarz

Group 6

Assistant: Vera

Mamoutou Coulibaly
Olivia D'Aoust
Jessica Gordon
Renate Hartwig
Philip Verwimp