CELEBRATING
20 YEARS OF J-PAL
Advancing more equitable and evidence-based policies for a better world
J-PAL was founded by professors Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Sendhil Mullainathan of MIT. The five affiliated professors who joined them when we first opened our doors in 2003 paved the way for a growing network of more than 325 affiliates today. Our affiliated researchers are at the heart of what we do and have helped spearhead two decades of innovative and impactful research.

**FOUNDING AFFILIATES**

Abhijit Banerjee
MIT

Marianne Bertrand
University of Chicago

Esther Duflo
MIT

Dean Karlan
Northwestern University

Michael Kremer
University of Chicago

Dan Levy
Harvard University

Edward Miguel
UC Berkeley

Sendhil Mullainathan
University of Chicago

**AWARDS THROUGH THE YEARS**

As randomized evaluation methods have evolved in scale and impact over the past twenty years, many of our affiliated professors have been recognized by leading economics organizations for their path-breaking research.

**Elaine Bennett Research Prize**
Erica Field (2010)
Amy Finkelstein (2008)
Marianne Bertrand (2004)
Esther Duflo (2002)

**Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**
Abhijit Banerjee (2019)
Esther Duflo (2019)
Michael Kremer (2019)

**Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**
Abhijit Banerjee (2019)
Esther Duflo (2019)
Michael Kremer (2019)

**MacArthur Fellowship**
Marcella Alsan (2021)
Amy Finkelstein (2018)
Heidi Williams (2015)
Raj Chetty (2012)
Esther Duflo (2009)
Sendhil Mullainathan (2002)
Michael Kremer (1997)

**John Bates Clark Medal**
Raj Chetty (2013)
Amy Finkelstein (2012)
Esther Duflo (2010)
Increasing diversity in J-PAL’s research network

Building inclusive research and training partnerships

Strengthening inclusive policy engagement and communications

Increasing staff diversity

We are working toward increasing the diversity of our research network, staff, and the places in which we conduct research; and are prioritizing equity and inclusion in our work. This includes strengthening our research network at all stages of the pipeline.

325+ AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

Based at universities around the world, J-PAL affiliates are experts in their fields who are united in their use of randomized evaluations to design, test, and inform adoption at scale of programs and policies aimed at reducing poverty.

J-PAL AFFILIATES OVER TIME

570+ INVITED RESEARCHERS

Invited researchers are an important element of our mission to increase the number of high-quality, policy-relevant randomized evaluations and ensure that policy is informed by this scientific evidence. Typically researchers who have less experience carrying out randomized evaluations, they add to a growing evidence base while gaining expertise in randomized evaluation methods.

J-PAL INVITED RESEARCHERS GENDER OVER TIME

REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

Our Regional Scholars Programs enrich evidence generation with local, context-specific grounding by removing barriers for researchers based in low- and middle-income countries to conduct randomized evaluations through funding, mentorship, and training.
GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

1,800+ EVALUATIONS

conducted by researchers in our network across 95 countries, building a strong body of evidence on the most (and least) effective approaches to reducing poverty.

J-PAL SECTORS
- Agriculture
- Crime, Violence, & Conflict
- Education
- Environment, Energy, & Climate Change
- Finance
- Firms
- Gender
- Health
- Labor Markets
- Political Economy & Governance
- Social Protection

RESEARCH IN 95 COUNTRIES
has identified region-specific, context-appropriate policy solutions worldwide.

11 SECTORS
concentrate research and policy analysis across a wide breadth of social policy priorities.

1,200+ EVALUATION SUMMARIES
of individual studies help make research results more accessible to policymakers and practitioners.

48 POLICY INSIGHTS
highlight lessons emerging across multiple studies and explain the mechanisms driving these results.

LOCAL GROUNDING

7 REGIONAL OFFICES
Our network of regional offices are hosted at universities around the world and lead research, policy engagement, and training across their regions. We also work closely with our partner organization, Innovations for Poverty Action, which has offices in 20 countries.

CELEBRATING LONGTIME STAFF
J-PAL has been home to thousands of talented individuals who have helped shape our organization. We celebrate the current J-PALers who have been with us continuously for more than ten years, making countless impactful contributions along the way. Thank you!

Row 1
B. Ayyappa (South Asia, 2007), Shobhini Mukerji (South Asia, 2007), Chaerudin Kodir (Southeast Asia, 2008), Hansa Parmar (South Asia, 2008), Vipin Awatramani (South Asia, 2009), Iqbal Dhailwal (Global, 2009), David Sears (Global, 2010).

Row 2
Narayane A (South Asia, 2011), Ilf Bencheikh (Europe, 2011), John Floretta (South Asia and Global, 2011), H.Y. Gowramma (South Asia, 2011), Harini Kannan (South Asia, 2011), Heather McCurdy (Global, 2011), Arindam Mukherji (South Asia, 2011).

Row 3
Ruben Menon (South Asia, 2012), Claire Walsh (Global, 2012), Putil Gupta (South Asia, 2013), Sabahat Ali Khan (South Asia, 2013), Claudia Macias (Latin America and the Caribbean, 2013), Lina Marliani (Southeast Asia, 2013).

EVALUATION GROWTH OVER TIME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Evaluations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2023</td>
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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

20K+ PEOPLE TRAINED
Since its start in 2005, the J-PAL training group has grown to deliver hundreds of online and in-person courses and train more than 20,000 people around the world in conducting rigorous randomized evaluations.

2,200+ RESEARCH STAFF TRAINED
In partnership with IPA, J-PAL hosts multiple in-person research staff trainings annually for employees of J-PAL, IPA, Evidence for Policy Design, and other research staff working on evaluations led by J-PAL affiliated researchers.

350K+ DEDP LEARNERS
In 2017, J-PAL launched the online Data, Economics, and Design of Policy MicroMasters program in collaboration with MITx and the MIT Department of Economics. The program has reached over 350,000 learners with over 620,000 total enrollments across all courses. Our learners come from 214 countries and territories, with more than 69% from low- and middle-income countries and 92% receiving some form of financial assistance.

POLICY-RELEVANT RESEARCH

30 INITIATIVES LAUNCHED
Through our innovative initiative model, J-PAL initiatives identify evidence gaps on key policy priorities; fund cutting-edge research through a competitive, peer-reviewed grant-making process; and engage with policymakers to share results and catalyze adoption of evidence at scale.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROPOSALS AWARDED</th>
<th>PILOT STUDIES</th>
<th>EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS</th>
<th>SCALE-UP GRANTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>211</td>
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2009 Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI)
2011 Governance Initiative (GI)
2012 Youth Initiative Post-Primary Education (PPE)
2013 North America Social Policy Research Initiative (SPRI)
2014 U.S. Health Care Delivery Initiative (HCDI)
2015 North America State and Local Innovation Initiative (SII)
2017 Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH)
2018 North America Education, Technology, and Opportunity Initiative
2019 Innovation in Government Initiative (IGI)
2020 Gender and Economic Agency Initiative (GEA)
2021 Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI)
2022 Alliance for Scaling Policy Impact through Research and Evidence (ASPIRE)
2023 Learning for All Initiative (LAI)

FLAGSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM
Our Evaluating Social Programs course provides an introduction to randomized evaluations for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners and is offered virtually and in-person each year in locations worldwide.

CUSTOMIZED OFFERINGS
Customized trainings are tailored to support policy and research partners working in specific sectors and regions.

ONLINE COURSES
Online courses in several different languages make learning more accessible to broader audiences worldwide.

ENROLLED LEARNERS

- **South Asia**: 51,697
- **North America**: 28,995
- **East Asia**: 19,222
- **Sub Saharan Africa**: 18,314
- **Europe and Central Asia**: 27,888
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: 26,668
- **Middle East and North Africa**: 8,859

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<th>INITIATIVES</th>
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EVIDENCE TO POLICY

25+ EMBEDDED LABS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

J-PAL has worked with governments and other organizations to create embedded labs to launch new highly policy-relevant randomized evaluations and to institutionalize the use of evidence in policy and practice.

Most recently, this includes:
- a series of Air and Water Labs (AWL) launched with Community Jameel and local partners in Egypt, India, and South Africa,
- the Egypt Impact Lab (EIL) in Egypt’s Ministry of Planning and Economic Development,
- and the University Mohammed VI Polytechnic - J-PAL Agricultural Lab for Africa (UJALA) with OCP in Morocco.

PATHWAYS TO POLICY CHANGE

SHIFT GLOBAL THINKING
- Free bednets to fight malaria across Africa
- Teaching at the Right Level to improve learning

APPLYING RESEARCH INSIGHTS
- Communicating Covid-19 information at scale
- Cash transfers for vulnerable households in Chile

INSTITUTIONALIZING EVIDENCE USE
- A trusted partnership built over time in Tamil Nadu
- Bolstering evidence use in the United States

ADAPTING AND SCALING A PROGRAM
- A trusted partnership built over time in Tamil Nadu
- Bolstering evidence use in the United States

SCALING UP AN EVALUATED PILOT
- Improving access to justice in Mexico
- Helping children catch up in the United States

SCALING BACK AN EVALUATED PROGRAM
- The unintended effects of anonymous resumes in France
- The limits of high-tech solutions in health care in India

Evidence from randomized evaluations is changing how we understand and address problems related to poverty. Policymakers, practitioners, and funders worldwide are increasingly applying these learnings to social policies and programs.

Over 600 million people have been reached by programs and policies that have been informed by evaluations by J-PAL affiliated researchers.
ENABLING INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Who is Abdul Latif Jameel?
Following in the footsteps of his late father, the entrepreneur and mission-driven philanthropist Abdul Latif Jameel, Mohammed Jameel KBE—an MIT alumnus—launched Community Jameel in 2003. Community Jameel partnered with J-PAL in 2005 with three significant endowments that sparked the lab’s expansion to the worldwide research center it is today and catalyzed its transformative impact. J-PAL continues to work in close collaboration with Community Jameel, an independent, global organization that advances science and learning for communities to thrive.

Our visionary partners

J-PAL AT 20
Listening, Learning, and Innovating

Friday, November 3, 2023
8:30am–6:00pm
MIT Media Lab
6th Floor, 75 Amherst Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

AGENDA
**MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS**

8:00–8:30am  Registration and breakfast

8:30am  The journey to J-PAL at 20

Hassan Jameel, Vice Chairman, Community Jameel
Esther Duflo, Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT

8:45am  High-quality education for all

Faiyaz Ahmed, Head of Content, Pratham
Gifty Amoamey, Field Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action
Rukmini Banerji, CEO, Pratham
Pascale Dupas, Professor, Princeton
Nuzhat Malik, Program Head, Pratham
Stellina Pana, Field Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action

Video: Deborah Danso, Pharmacy Technician

9:30am  Reframing the narrative

Ami Vitale, Photographer, filmmaker, and explorer

9:45am  Poverty, the environment, and climate change

Gregory Chen, Managing Director of the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative, BRAC International
Kelsey Jack, Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara
James Mwenda, Conservationist and entrepreneur
Ami Vitale, Photographer, filmmaker, and explorer

Video: Hindou Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad

10:30–11:00am  Coffee break

11:00am  My epic failures

Ben Olken, Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT

11:15am  Poverty amidst plenty: The good fight in the United States

Maryann Broxton, Main Representative to the United Nations, International Movement ATD Fourth World
Janti Soeripto, President and CEO, Save the Children US
Ashleigh Stocton, East Tennessee Community Action Team Volunteer Community Lead, Save the Children Action Network

Video: Marcelo Rocha, Founder, A Banca

11:40am  Working with quacks: The challenges of unregulated health care

Abhijit Chowdhury, Professor and Chair of Hepatology, Indian Institute of Liver and Digestive Sciences
Jishnu Das, Professor, Georgetown University

Video: Tarun Chakraborty and Tannay Majumdar, informal health care providers

12:15pm  Plenary closing

Esther Duflo, Director, J-PAL and Professor, MIT

12:30–1:30pm  Lunch

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**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1:30pm  Track 1: Small group sector convenings (by emailed invitation)

(concurrent)

1:30pm  Track 2: AI: Emerging challenges and opportunities

David Autor, Ford Professor and Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow, MIT
AI and the microeconomy
Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director, IMF
AI and the macroeconomy
Brigitte Hoyer Gosselink, Director of Product Impact, Google.org
AI and its applications for social good
S. Krishnan, Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
AI and government
Iqbal Dhaliwal, Global Executive Director, J-PAL
AI and experiments; moderator

1:30pm  Track 3: Innovations in RCT methods and perspectives for the next decade

Seema Jayachandran, Professor, Princeton
Measuring women’s agency
Dean Karlan, Professor, Northwestern
Megastudies
Craig McIntosh, Professor, University of California, San Diego
Design and analysis
Poppy Widyasari, Associate Director of Research, J-PAL Southeast Asia
Leveraging administrative data
William Parienté, Professor, Université Catholique de Louvain
Moderator

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Moderator

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**AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSIONS**

3:30pm  How did it all start?

Bengt Holmström, Nobel laureate and MIT Professor Emeritus

3:35pm  Fireside chat on the future of J-PAL and experiments in social policy

Iqbal Dhaliwal, Esther Duflo, and Ben Olken, J-PAL Directors

4:45pm  Our shared call to action

Mark Gorenberg, Chair, MIT Corporation

4:50–6:00pm  Reception

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SCAN FOR SPEAKER BIOS AND MORE