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NEWSLETTER

January 2024



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NEW POLICY INSIGHT

Empowering women in STEM through role models

In a new Policy Insight, J-PAL's [Gender sector](#) summarizes evidence from seven randomized evaluations across four high-income countries on the effect of women role models in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) on girls' ambitions and career achievements.

Policy issue: Globally, women's representation in STEM is low compared to men—in 2022 only 7 percent of women graduated with a degree in engineering and manufacturing, compared to 25 percent for men. This underrepresentation contributes to sustained gender

gaps in the labor market, affecting women's career opportunities and broader economic growth.

Findings: Exposure to women role models often positively impacts female students' participation and educational performance in STEM fields by improving students' perceptions and aspirations of pursuing STEM careers.

[Read the Policy Insight](#)

Five scaling stories from the King Climate Action Initiative

Three years ago, J-PAL's [King Climate Action Initiative](#) (K-CAI) concluded its first funding competition to support research and scaling projects at the nexus of climate change and poverty alleviation. Since then, K-CAI has generated evidence that has informed real-world policy design and implementation, including the ongoing scaling of five policies and programs that cut emissions and/or enhance resilience. On the J-PAL blog, see how actionable insights from K-CAI-funded research are being used by policymakers from India to the United States. [Read more »](#)

20 for 20: Partnering with UNICEF for child and adolescent well-being

 **Egypt**

In the latest installment in our "20 for 20: Partner Voices" [blog series](#) marking J-PAL's 20th anniversary, UNICEF's Lina Nabarawy reflects on their four-year partnership with [J-PAL Middle East and North Africa](#). This collaboration aims to support policymakers and development practitioners in leveraging J-PAL's worldwide evidence base to inform

program planning and identifying solutions to policy challenges that affect Egypt's children and their families. [Read more »](#)

FEATURED BLOGS



Photo credit: J-PAL

Three lessons from J-PAL North America's ten year convening

[Read more »](#)



Photo credit: Jonathan Torgovnik, Getty Images, Images of Empowerment

Fighting gender-based violence: An evidence-based call to UNITE!

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Photo credit: Lucy Nguyen, J-PAL

The private sector's role in worker well-being, sustainability, and inclusive growth

[Read more »](#)

WELCOMING OUR NEW AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

In summer 2023, 33 talented researchers joined the J-PAL network. We will feature a few of them here each month.



Muhammad Meki
University of Oxford



Hope Michelson
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



Matthias Sutter
University of Cologne,
University of Innsbruck

 **FEATURED MULTIMEDIA**

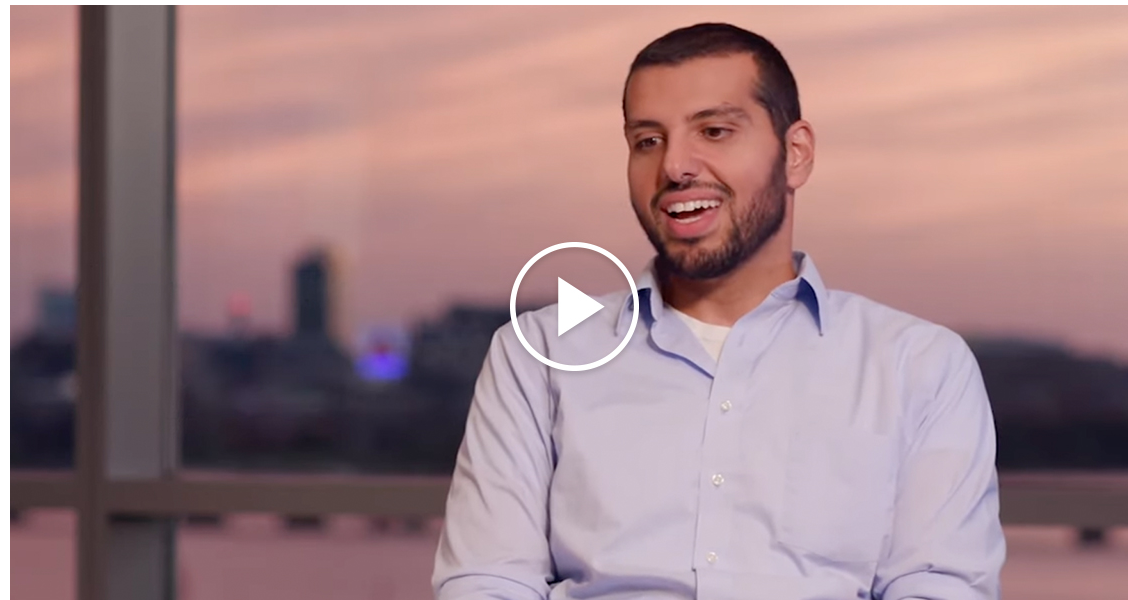


Photo credits: J-PAL

Watch: What makes research in Egypt and Morocco unique?

J-PAL affiliated professor [Adam Osman](#) (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Scientific Director, J-PAL Middle East and North Africa) reflects on J-PAL's 20th anniversary and discusses the unique challenges of conducting research in the Middle East. He highlights [J-PAL MENA's](#) past achievements and future goals and celebrates their [Egypt Impact Lab](#) and [Morocco Employment Lab](#) for their pioneering efforts to work with government partners and generate rigorous evidence in the region. [Watch the video »](#)

FEATURED TRAININGS

Open enrollment and scholarships for the DEDP MicroMasters

 **January 16**

The MicroMasters Program in Data, Economics, and Design of Policy (DEDP) spring term starts on January 16, and registration is open until February 13. The online courses cover a range of topics, including microeconomics, randomized evaluations, data analysis, and development policy. Learners who complete the DEDP MicroMasters credential can apply for the on-campus [Master's in DEDP](#) at MIT or one of our [pathway universities](#).

Thanks to the generous support of committed donors, we can offer MicroMasters course scholarships to learners in Brazil, Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. [Learn more and enroll today »](#)

Humanitarian professionals: Apply for Impact Evaluation Training

 **Applications due: February 2**

On March 11–14, J-PAL and Innovations for Poverty Action will host a free online training for humanitarian professionals. This training will consist of four half-day lectures and

working sessions that explore each step in designing a randomized evaluation to rigorously measure the impact of humanitarian programs. The training will emphasize interventions aiming to improve protection in conflict settings and discuss the design, ethics, implementation, and randomization strategies suited for impact evaluations in humanitarian settings. Applications are due February 2. [Learn more and apply »](#)

Apply for the Humanitarian Action Research Incubator

Applications due: February 21

On April 8–10, J-PAL and Innovations for Poverty Action will host a randomized evaluation design incubator in person in Bogotá, Colombia. The workshop will be tailored to organizations that promote sustainable livelihoods for displaced persons and host communities or aim to improve protection outcomes in conflict settings. Participants will develop a concept note for a randomized evaluation of one of their own programs, with the opportunity to establish the foundations for future collaboration with researchers. Applications are due February 21. [Learn more and apply »](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[From gender inclusivity to climate change: Art exhibition explores ways to popularise policy discourse](#)

[Outlook](#)

[The Universal Basic Income experiment in Kenya](#)

[Planet Money](#)

[Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo turn findings into fun – play, exhibition](#)

[The Print](#)

Does "food as medicine" make a big dent in diabetes?

MIT News

NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

Helping Children Catch Up: Early Life Shocks and the PROGRESA Experiment

Achyuta Adhvaryu, Teresa Molina, Anant Nyshadham, and Jorge Tamayo

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Reduces Crime and Violence over Ten Years: Experimental Evidence

Christopher Blattman, Sebastian Chaskel, Julian C. Jamison, and Margaret Sheridan

The Welfare Benefits of Pay-As-You-Go Financing

Paul Gertler, Brett Green, Renping Li, and David Alexandre Sraer

Local Infrastructure and the Development of the Private Sector: Evidence from a Randomized Trial

Daniel Rogger, Leonardo Iacovone, Luis F. Sánchez-Bayardo, and Craig McIntosh

FEATURED JOB

Deadline extended to January 19: J-PAL Global is hiring an **Associate Director of Human Resources** to be a part of an exceptional, multicultural, collaborative, and inclusive community. This position will be based out of Cambridge, MA, US. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Does this sound like a good fit for you or someone you know? Please [submit your application](#) or [share the position with your network](#) »

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior Policy Associate (Climate and Urban Policy), Cape Town, South Africa
- Policy and Research Intern (Innovation, Data and Experiments in Education), Paris, France
- Research Manager (Morocco Employment Lab), Rabat, Morocco
- Research Associate (Construction Workers), New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Research Associate (Payments and Governance Research Program), New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Finance and Operations Manager, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Web and Digital Communications Specialist, Cambridge, MA, US

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