View in browser | Add eNews@povertyactionlab.org to your address book

J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

NEWSLETTER
June 2017

Tukaram.Karve|Shutterstock.com

A practical framework for evidence-informed policy: Addressing the generalizability puzzle

Is a specific policy or program shown to be successful in one place likely to succeed in another? In an article just published in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, J-PAL Executive Director Rachel Glennerster and J-PAL North America Deputy Executive Director Mary Ann Bates present a practical framework for policymakers to use when deciding whether a particular approach makes sense in their context.

The long-standing debate of whether results from randomized evaluations can be translated to different contexts, the authors argue, is often presented as a false choice that obscures both the nuances of policymaking and the value of research in making informed decisions. Read more »

FEATURED PUBLICATION

New J-PAL Bulletin: Practicing Choices, Preventing Crime

While young adults in many contexts struggle to develop a positive identity or skills such as self-control, those who grow up in low-income or violent settings may have more at stake and receive less support. Cognitive behavioral therapy, an intervention traditionally used to treat mental health disorders like depression, is a promising option for policymakers seeking low-cost solutions to crime and violence. The latest J-PAL Bulletin, Practicing Choices, Preventing Crime, analyzes results from three randomized evaluations of cognitive behavioral therapy programs in Chicago, Illinois and Monrovia, Liberia. Read more »

EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

State government of Punjab, India signs MOU with J-PAL South Asia

In May, the state government of Punjab, India affirmed its commitment to taking an evidence-informed approach to poverty alleviation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with J-PAL South Asia. Under the agreement, J-PAL South Asia will advise the government in developing programs and rigorous impact evaluations in key sectors, including health, education, labor and employment, local governance, and rural development. Read more »

FEATURED AFFILIATED PROFESSOR

Roland Rathelot on labor market economics

Roland Rathelot (University of Warwick) studies the impacts of job searching, discrimination against ethnic minorities, and residential segregation on labor markets and employment. In our latest affiliate Q&A, Rathelot explains that many questions are still to be solved about why unemployment arises and persists, and how the field can complement what we know from the books. Read more »

FEATURED MULTIMEDIA

"The China Shock": Isolating the impacts of China's growth on the US economy

In J-PAL and MIT Economics' latest "Data, Decisions, Public Policy" talk on May 18, J-PAL affiliate David Autor (MIT) presented his research on the impacts of China's rise on the United States. The areas of the United States hardest hit by related job losses—the South, the Northeast, and the Great Lakes region—have also seen shifts to more divisive politics, Autor said. Watch the video »

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Esther Duflo elected to National Academy of Sciences
MIT News

The ambition-marriage trade-off too many single women face
Harvard Business Review

Quentin Palfrey: Did applying for financial aid just get harder?
The Hechinger Report

WFP and J-PAL partner to promote child growth and immunization in Moyamba District, Sierra Leone
WFP News

Cash as capital: To fulfill the promise of cash transfers, we need to double down on investment in research.
Standford Social Innovation Review

NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

Status Goods: Experimental Evidence from Platinum Credit Cards
Bursztyn, Leonardo, Bruno Ferman, Stefano Fiorin, Martin Kanz, and Gautam Rao

Competition in Agricultural Markets: An Experimental Approach
Casaburi, Lorenzo, and Tristan Reed

Reducing Crime and Violence: Experimental Evidence from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Liberia
Blattman, Christopher, Julian C. Jamison, and Margaret Sheridan

---

FEATURED JOBS

Explore a full list of open positions around the world »

PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Take a brief survey to help the J-PAL newsletter team assess how we're doing and how the newsletter can better serve your interests. The survey is anonymous and should take no more than five minutes to complete.

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a network of more than 140 affiliated professors from over forty universities. Our mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. We engage with hundreds of partners around the world to conduct rigorous research, build capacity, share policy lessons, and scale up effective programs. J-PAL was launched at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and now has regional offices in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

If you have colleagues who might enjoy this newsletter, please forward this email; they can sign up here.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology