

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



**NEWSLETTER**

June 2021



Photo: Shutterstock.com

## **Expanding the Jobs and Opportunity Initiative to Brazil**

Brazil faces a variety of labor market challenges, which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. While impact evaluations from around the world have identified innovative and effective approaches to increasing employment rates, more research is needed to understand exactly why these approaches work and how to scale them in contexts like Brazil. With support from Fundação Arymax, B3 Social, Potencia Ventures, and the Inter-American Development Bank, [J-PAL Latin America and the Caribbean](#) is bringing the [Jobs and Opportunity Initiative](#) to Brazil to fund evaluations of strategies that address the country's most pressing employment challenges.

[Read more](#)

---

**Overcoming barriers to saving money**



Photo: Anton\_Ivanov | Shutterstock.com

Individuals and families in low- and middle-income countries can face many obstacles to saving money. In a [new policy brief](#), we reviewed twelve randomized evaluations and found that commitment savings products—voluntary arrangements that increase the likelihood of saving—play an important role in helping individuals experiencing poverty reach their savings goals. [Read more »](#)



Photo: Shutterstock.com

## New trends in randomized evaluations during Covid-19

How has the pipeline of randomized evaluations in social science research changed in response to Covid-19? We analyzed public data from the American Economic Association’s [Randomized Controlled Trial Registry](#) to identify trends in how research teams, research topics, and geographic scope have changed. On our blog, we discuss the rise in research conducted in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, and the increased focus on health topics. [Read more »](#)

[Learn more about J-PAL’s response to Covid-19](#)

### FEATURED EVALUATION SUMMARY



Photo: Thomas Chupein | J-PAL

## Improving chlorine usage and child health in Malawi

Contaminated water can cause diarrheal disease, which is the second-leading cause of childhood mortality worldwide. Chlorine can effectively disinfect water, but its usage remains low in sub-Saharan Africa. J-PAL affiliated professor [Pascaline Dupas](#) (Stanford; Co-Chair, J-PAL’s Health sector) and coauthors found that monthly coupons to subsidize a water treatment solution improved chlorine usage and child health outcomes. These coupons were more

effective and cost-effective than community health workers distributing chlorine for free. [Read more »](#)

### FEATURED AFFILIATED PROFESSOR



Photo: Courtesy of Harvard Business School

### Shawn Cole on digital technology in development economics

In a profile on the J-PAL blog, [Shawn Cole](#) (Harvard Business School; Co-Chair, J-PAL Research, Education, and Training) discusses his efforts to lead a digital revolution in development economics. In particular, he focuses on how to leverage cheap, digital communication tools to transform the agricultural practices of millions of farmers in low- and middle-income countries. [Read more »](#)

### WELCOMING OUR NEW AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

*In summer 2020, 34 new affiliated professors joined the J-PAL network. We'll feature a few of them here each month; click through to read more about their research interests.*



Selim Gulesci  
Trinity College Dublin



Robert Metcalfe  
University of Southern  
California



Owen Ozier  
Williams College

### FEATURED EVENTS

### [June 30] Emerging Challenges for Indonesia's Post-Covid Era: Addressing Opportunity, Inequality, and Growth

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused substantial economic disruption in Indonesia, with adverse impacts on jobs and livelihoods, especially among the most vulnerable segments

of society. [J-PAL Southeast Asia's](#) webinar will provide insights on the Government of Indonesia's policy directions and learnings from global evidence on health, inequality, and the environment. The event will feature HE Sri Mulyani (Minister of Finance, Republic of Indonesia) and [Abhijit Banerjee](#) (MIT; Director, J-PAL; Scientific Director, J-PAL Europe), and will be moderated by M. Chatib Basri (Senior Partner, Creco Research). [Register »](#)

---

## FEATURED TRAININGS

### **Apply to CLEAR/J-PAL South Asia's Measurement and Survey Design course by June 30**

This five-day online course will introduce participants to foundational concepts in measurement theory and quantitative survey design. Through lectures and case studies, participants will explore the fundamentals of data collection, designing and piloting surveys, developing field protocols, and more. [Learn more and register »](#)

---

### **Enroll in the MicroMasters summer semester by July 6**

The next semester of our online MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) began on June 1, but registration is open until July 6. Our classes cover a range of topics and skills: learn the statistical program R while building a strong foundation in probability and statistics in [Data Analysis for Social Scientists](#); get an introduction to microeconomic theory, together with real-world research results and policy implications in [Microeconomics](#) ; and learn how to use economic theory and data analysis to design and implement effective policy in [Foundations of Development Policy](#). 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 in J-PAL Africa's Evaluating Social Programs course by July 12**

How do you know if your organization's programs are achieving their intended impact? Join [J-PAL Africa's](#) upcoming online Evaluating Social Programs courses to learn how randomized evaluations can be used to rigorously measure social impact and shape evidence-informed policies and programs. Applications for the course will be reviewed on a rolling basis until July 12, and the course will be held live over Zoom on August 9–13. [Learn more and apply »](#)

---

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[Punjab inks pact to launch emissions trading](#)  
Hindustan Times

[If we can vaccinate the world, we can beat the climate crisis \[Opinion\]](#)  
The Guardian

[The disastrous neglect of neglected tropical diseases \[Opinion\]](#)  
Project Syndicate

[Jobless benefits don't make people 'lazy,' Nobel laureate Esther Duflo says](#)  
The New York Times

[The power of pre-K](#)  
The New York Times

[Tackling gender equality early: Adolescents are very responsive to normalisation of progressive attitudes in schools \[Opinion\]](#)  
The Times of India

---

## NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

[Selecting the Most Effective Nudge: Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment on Immunization](#)

Abhijit Banerjee, Arun G. Chandrasekhar, Suresh Dalpath, Esther Duflo, John Floretta, Matthew O. Jackson, Harini Kannan, Francine N. Loza, Anirudh Sankar, Anna Schrimpf, Maheshwor Shrestha

[Can Network Theory-Based Targeting Increase Technology Adoption?](#)

Lori Beaman, Ariel BenYishay, Jeremy Magruder, Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak

[Effect of Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to Americans without Dependent Children on Psychological Distress \(Paycheck Plus\): A Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

Emilie Courtin, Heidi L. Allen, Lawrence F. Katz, Cynthia Miller, Kali Aloisi, Peter Muennig

[Women Left Behind: Gender Disparities in Utilization of Government Health Insurance in India](#)

Pascaline Dupas, Radhika Jain

---

## FEATURED JOBS

[Research Associate \(Girls' Education and Empowerment\), Abuja, Nigeria](#)

[Research and Policy Manager, South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria, or Ethiopia](#)

[Senior Policy and Communications Associate, South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria, or Ethiopia](#)

Partnership Manager (IDEE Program), Paris, France  
IT Desktop Support Specialist, Chennai or New Delhi, India  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Education Associate, Cambridge, MA, US  
Initiatives Associate, Cambridge, MA, US

[Explore open positions around the world »](#)



This email was sent by: J-PAL  
400 Main Street, Cambridge, MA, 02142 US

[About J-PAL](#)   [Privacy Policy](#)   [Update Profile](#)   [Unsubscribe](#)