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**NEWSLETTER**

December 2019



## During Nobel Week, laureates celebrate innovation in economic research

In their Nobel Prize keynote talks, J-PAL co-founders [Abhijit Banerjee](#) and [Esther Duflo](#), with longtime J-PAL affiliate [Michael Kremer](#), emphasized the potential of randomized evaluations to generate not only innovative research, but also change on a global scale. "RCTs have created ideas beyond what Esther or Michael or I could have even thought of. I say with genuine humility, this is a prize at least as much for all researchers as it is for us," said Abhijit.

**Watch their Nobel lectures:**

**Abhijit Banerjee**



**Esther Duflo**



**Michael Kremer**



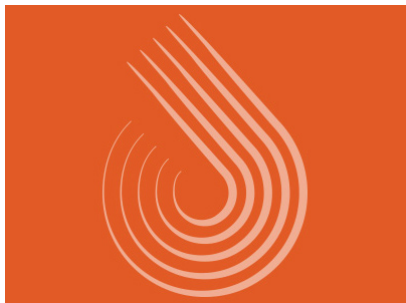
Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed | © Nobel Media



## New partnerships to promote social inclusion for migrants in Europe

Under the [European Social Inclusion Initiative \(ESII\)](#), J-PAL Europe is partnering with governments and NGOs to rigorously evaluate programs designed to better integrate migrants and refugees into society.

ESII's first round of grant funding will support three randomized evaluations: a program in Sweden that connects recent migrants to local residents, an education curriculum in Turkey designed to facilitate the integration of Syrian refugee children, and a school-based program in Finland that aims to promote intercultural interactions and reduce discrimination in classrooms. [Read more »](#)



## J-PAL welcomes twelve new affiliated professors

Our newest affiliates include [Lauren Falcao Bergquist](#) at the University of Michigan, [Stefano Caria](#) at the University of Bristol, [Jishnu Das](#) at Georgetown University, [Susan Godlonton](#) at Williams College, [Rachel Heath](#) at the University of Washington, [Simon Jäger](#) at MIT, [Jason T. Kerwin](#) at the University of Minnesota, [Adnan Khan](#) at LSE, [Amit Khandelwal](#) at Columbia University, [Adrienne Lucas](#) at the University of Delaware, [Rocco Macchiavello](#) at LSE, and [Christopher Palmer](#) at MIT.

Their research interests span labor markets, trade liberalization, housing, and more. [Read their bios »](#)

## What can we learn from randomized evaluations on job creation?

Job creation is a frequent talking point for politicians around the world. In a [recent \*New York Times\* op-ed](#),



Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee highlighted the important role of job markets and incomes on economic growth. How can public policy create more jobs, and what role do private sector firms play?

David Atkin (MIT) and Nicholas Bloom (Stanford), co-chairs of J-PAL's Firms sector, describe opportunities for innovative research on job creation in a piece on the J-PAL blog. "With creative and thoughtful collaboration between researchers and policymakers, we can build a groundbreaking global and policy-relevant research agenda." [Read more »](#)

## FEATURED POLICY INSIGHT



### The limited impact of US workplace wellness programs on health and employment outcomes

Since 2010, revenue in the US workplace wellness industry has tripled in size to \$8 billion, bolstered by policies encouraging companies to adopt wellness programs that aim to foster healthy behaviors, reduce medical spending, and improve well-being. However, two recent randomized evaluations of workplace wellness programs found limited impacts on employees' health habits and no impacts on their health, employment, or costs of health care. [Read more »](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

2019 Nobel Prize recipient Abhijit Banerjee reflects on leadership in the social sector  
Forbes

How poverty ends (Opinion)  
Foreign Affairs

New research partnership evaluates innovation in family engagement  
MIT News

Solutions for economic inequality from 2019 Nobel Prize winners

WBUR

Letting the world know “what works” (Opinion)

The Hindu

UCT’s role in Nobel win

University of Cape Town News

Odisha government partners with J-PAL for evidence-based approach to policy formation

Times of India

### NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

Pay Me Later: Savings Constraints and the Demand for Deferred Payments

Lasse Brune, Eric Chyn, Jason T. Kerwin

How Important Is Temptation Spending? Maybe Less Than We Thought (with blog post)

Jason T. Kerwin, Qingxiao Li, Lasse Brune

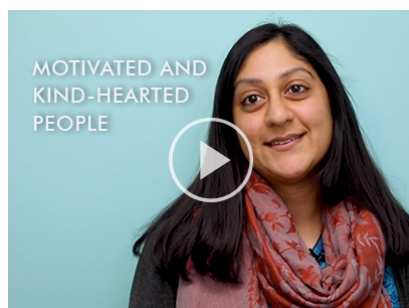
What Are the Headwaters of Formal Savings? Experimental Evidence from Sri Lanka

Michael Callen, Suresh de Mel, Craig McIntosh, Christopher Woodruff

### FEATURED JOBS

## Come work with us!

We’re looking for talented people to join our team! J-PAL’s global recruitment drive is open from November 18 to January 10. Opportunities are available in research, policy, communications, training, finance, and operations across J-PAL’s seven offices.



Hear from staff around the world about their experiences working at J-PAL.

Watch the videos

### Open positions:

Manager, Research Transparency and Methods, Cambridge, MA, US

Policy Manager, Financial Inclusion, Cambridge, MA, US

Senior Policy Associate, Financial Inclusion, Cambridge, MA, US

Special Assistant to Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Cambridge, MA, US

Administrative Associate to Abhijit Banerjee and Ben Olken, Cambridge, MA, US

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

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The [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab \(J-PAL\)](#) is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. Anchored by a network of more than 190 affiliated professors at universities around the world, J-PAL draws on results from randomized impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. We build partnerships with governments, NGOs, donors, and others to share this knowledge, scale up effective programs, and advance evidence-informed decision-making. J-PAL was launched at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2003 and has regional centers in Africa, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.



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