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NEWSLETTER

February 2020



Informing the future of US health care delivery: Results from the Camden Core partnership

In a two-part blog series, researchers, staff, and members of the Camden Coalition reflect on results from an [evaluation of the Camden Core Model](#) and what makes for a strong research partnership. J-PAL affiliated researchers [Joseph Doyle](#) (MIT; Co-Chair, J-PAL Health sector) and [Amy Finkelstein](#) (MIT; Scientific Director, J-PAL North America), and co-authors Sarah Taubman and Annetta Zhou found that providing intensive, time-limited clinical and social assistance did not lower rates of hospital readmission. [Read the first blog post »](#)

J-PAL Southeast Asia launches Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative

valued around \$40 billion, Indonesia's digital economy quadrupled between 2015 and 2019. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, J-PAL



Southeast Asia's new initiative explores how best to harness the growing power of digital technologies to accelerate financial inclusion in Indonesia. Pushing forward the frontier on digital technologies, like mobile money, the Inclusive Financial Innovation Initiative will answer key policy questions on what types of digital financial services work, why, and how best to deploy them. [Read more »](#)



New practical guides on publishing and de-identifying data

As more researchers and organizations move towards institutionalizing data publication, it is important to protect the confidentiality of study participants through data de-identification. Drawing from J-PAL's decade-long expertise in [publishing](#) and [de-identifying](#) data, our guides walk you through the process. [Read more »](#)

FEATURED POLICY INSIGHT



Supporting firm growth through consulting and business training

Can offering business training services and consulting improve management practices and lead to growth? A review of five randomized evaluations found that these programs increased firms' productivity, sales, profits, and likelihood of survival. Despite these gains, firms did not always take up these programs. [Read more »](#)

FEATURED MULTIMEDIA

Catalyzing the scale-up of evaluated programs



In a new video, [Shobhini Mukerji](#) (Executive Director, J-PAL South Asia) highlights how J-PAL collaborates with partners to develop a culture of evidence use and to scale programs that are informed by global evidence and grounded in local contexts. [Watch now »](#)

UPCOMING EVENT



February 13: Achieving food security and pathways for improved nutrition in India

J-PAL South Asia, the Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR), and the Evaluation Community of India are hosting a panel discussion to share evidence on the role of agricultural productivity in achieving food security and addressing barriers to improved nutrition. [Learn more and register »](#)

UPCOMING TRAININGS



Enroll today for the spring semester of the MicroMasters

In January we welcomed 22 students to MIT's campus in the first cohort of the [Data, Economics, and Development Policy](#) (DEDP) Master's program. The students in the [inaugural cohort](#) come from 14 countries and a diverse range of backgrounds.

It's not too late to start your own journey to a master's degree from MIT—[join the current semester](#) of our online MicroMasters in DEDP. Through a series of five online courses and in-person exams, learners will gain a strong foundation in microeconomics, development economics, and probability and statistics, while engaging with cutting-edge field research. Students who complete the full DEDP credential are

eligible to apply for the master's program in DEDP at MIT. [Learn more and register »](#)



Upcoming course: Evaluating Social Programs in Cambridge, MA

How do you know if your organization is achieving its intended impact? Join us for a five-day, in-person training June 8–12 at MIT to learn how randomized evaluations can be used to rigorously measure social impact, how they are designed in real-world settings, and how results can drive evidence-based decision-making.

Taught by J-PAL affiliated professors and senior staff, the training is tailored to the needs of policymakers, practitioners, and researchers from NGOs, governments, and foundations from the US and around the world. [Learn more and apply by April 17 »](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MIT launches master's in Data, Economics, and Development Policy, led by Nobel laureates
MIT News

Can we have prosperity without growth?
The New Yorker

Healthcare is gender blind. Here's how to fix it [Opinion]
The Wire

A Nobel-winning way to make effective policy [Opinion]
Governing

NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

Cashing In (and Out): Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Mobile Money in Malawi
Shilpa Aggarwal, Valentina Brailovskaya, Jonathan Robinson

Just a Bit of Cushion: The Role of a Simple Savings Device in Meeting Planned and Unplanned Expenses in Rural Niger

Jenny C. Aker, Melita Sawyer, Markus Goldstein, Michael O'Sullivan, Magaret McConnell

The Impact of Public-Private Partnerships on Private School Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda

Felipe Barrera-Orsorio, Pierre De Galbert, James Habyarimana, Shwetlena Sabarwal

Does Household Electrification Supercharge Economic Development?

Kenneth Lee, Edward Miguel, Catherine Wolfram

FEATURED JOBS

Policy Manager, Gender Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya

Manager in Research, Education, and Training; Research Transparency and Methods,
Cambridge, MA, US

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

Policy Manager, Financial Inclusion, Cambridge, MA, US

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

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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