To view this email as a web page, go here.

J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

NEWSLETTER
January 2020

Nobel laureates Michael Kremer, Esther Duflo, and Abhijit Banerjee on the Nobel stage in Stockholm in December 2019. Photo: Iqbal Dhaliwal | J-PAL

Building on an incredible 2019

2019 was a banner year for J-PAL on many fronts. We launched exciting new initiatives to expand the frontiers of research and evidence-informed policy, grew our online MicroMasters program, and accepted the first class of students in our new Master's in Data, Economics, and Development Policy.

2019 was also notable for an exceptional reason: J-PAL co-founders Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and longtime affiliate Michael Kremer were awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

So how do we top this incredible year, or for that matter, the past decade? We do so by doubling down on the hard work and strong, collaborative partnerships that helped this movement succeed, and by focusing on a number of new priority areas. Our Global Executive Director provides a quick recap of 2019 and highlights some of the key focus areas for 2020 and beyond. Read more »

Our top blog posts of the year

Our staff, affiliated researchers, and partners covered a range of topics on the J-PAL blog in 2019, from research transparency to program scale-ups to innovations in blended learning. We compiled a list of our most-read posts highlighting insights from across the J-PAL network. Read our top posts »

Saving for the future: Delivering on a common New Year's resolution

At the start of a new year, many people set resolutions to improve their lives: eat healthier food, be more kind, save more money. Yet, many resolutions fade over time, including commitments to better financial habits. How can savings products be designed to enable people to meet their savings goals? Read more »

Helping smallholder farmers adapt to climate change

Photo: Piyaset | Shutterstock.com

In 2019, nearly $800 million was pledged to the research and development of technologies to increase smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change. But how do we ensure farmers adopt effective innovations? The Environment, Energy, & Climate Change team highlighted interventions to reduce barriers to adopting technologies and strategies to help farmers cope with climate shocks. Read more »

FEATURED PUBLICATION

Inspiring success: Personalized training for microenterprises in Chile

Between 2013 and 2014, J-PAL affiliated professors Jeanne Lafortune (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) and José Tessada (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), with coauthor Julio Riutort, worked with the Chilean non-profit Simón de Cirene to conduct a randomized evaluation of personalized training for microentrepreneurs.

In addition to conventional classroom training, the program included two innovative components: role models and individualized technical assistance. Adding those components to the training increased microentrepreneurs' household income, mainly through improved business practices and performance. Read more »

FEATURED MULTIMEDIA

New video: Can results from one context be applied to another?

How can studying one program make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions worldwide? The answer lies in generalizability, or applying lessons from one context to another. Watch the video »

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Enroll now in MicroMasters' spring semester

The next semester of our online MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) begins February 4. 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 blended master's program in DEDP at MIT. Learn more and register »

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The next frontier: Leveraging the Nobel Prize to shape the future
Forbes

From evidence to policy: Three lessons for philanthropy from this year's Nobel prize
The Center for Effective Philanthropy

These patients are hard to treat
The New York Times

How Nobel-prize-winning research is tackling youth unemployment
Ahram Online

Glimpses of Pratham's 20-year partnership with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo
The Indian Express

How the economics Nobel laureates' methods could help fight poverty in the U.S.
PBS

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

Pilot program to test free and discounted Metro fare cards for low-income D.C. residents
Washington Post

Researchers find a remarkable ripple effect when you give cash to poor families
NPR Goats and Soda

NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

General Equilibrium Effects of Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya
Dennis Egger, Johannes Haushofer, Edward Miguel, Paul Niehaus, Michael Walker

Environmental Externalities and Free-Riding in the Household
B. Kelsey Jack, Seema Jayachandran, Sarojini Rao

Does Diversity Matter for Health? Experimental Evidence from Oakland
Marcella Alsan, Owen Garrick, Grant Graziani

Effects of a Scalable Home-Visiting Intervention on Child Development in Slums of Urban
India: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial

Alison Andrew, Orazio Attanasio, Britta Augsburg, Monimalika Day, Sally Grantham-McGregor, Costas Meghir, Fardina Mehrin, Smriti Pahwa, Marta Rubio-Codina

---

FEATURED JOBS

Come work with us!

We're looking for talented people to join our team! J-PAL's global recruitment drive closes today, January 10. Opportunities are available in research, policy, communications, training, finance, and operations worldwide.

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

Watch the videos

Open positions:

Policy Manager, Labor Markets, Kenya, Nigeria, or South Africa
Senior Policy Associate, Labor Markets, Cambridge, MA, US
Policy Manager, Financial Inclusion, Cambridge, MA, US
Senior Policy Associate, Financial Inclusion, Cambridge, MA, US
Policy Manager, Gender Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya
Manager in Research, Education, and Training: Research Transparency and Methods, Cambridge, MA, US
Research, Education, and Training Associate, Cambridge, MA, US
Administrative Associate to Abhijit Banerjee and Ben Olken, Cambridge, MA, US

Explore a full list of 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.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

This email was sent by: J-PAL

400 Main Street, Cambridge, MA, 02142 US

Privacy Policy   **Update Profile**   **Unsubscribe**