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**NEWSLETTER**  
July 2021



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## **New op-ed: If we can vaccinate the world, we can beat the climate crisis**

In a new op-ed in *The Guardian*, [Abhijit Banerjee](#) (MIT; Director, J-PAL; Scientific Director, J-PAL Europe) and [Esther Duflo](#) (MIT; Director, J-PAL; Scientific Director, J-PAL South Asia) argue that deeply unequal access to vaccines is diminishing trust in high-income countries to meet other promises, like reducing emissions and providing support to low- and middle-income countries to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. Because addressing both require global cooperation, this lack of trust threatens global efforts to address climate change and the success of the COP26 climate conference later this year. Successfully vaccinating the world, they claim, "is our chance to show that the talk of a common community and a shared destiny is more than just words."

[Read more](#)

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**Sara Fisher Ellison named new faculty director of Data, Economics,**



Photo: MIT

## and Development Policy (DEDP) program

Sara Fisher Ellison, a senior lecturer in MIT's Department of Economics, joined MIT in 1995 and has developed and taught many courses in economics and statistics, including the popular DEDP course [Data Analysis for Social Scientists](#). She will play an active role in upholding the standard of excellence of the DEDP program by guiding course updates and the creation of new courses, mentoring students, and advising the team that manages the program.

More than 40,000 learners from 180 countries have enrolled in online DEDP courses, and the second cohort of in-person students [recently concluded](#) their classes on MIT's campus in Cambridge. Interested in working with Sara and this team? Apply for the new [Education Manager](#) or [Senior Education Manager](#) positions at J-PAL. [Learn more »](#)



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## Affiliate Q&A: Addressing education inequalities in Italy through online tutoring

Following the shift to remote learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic, J-PAL affiliated professors [Michela Carlana](#) (Harvard) and [Eliana La Ferrara](#) (Bocconi) rapidly launched the Tutoring Online Project (TOP)—an online tutoring program designed to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds who were lagging behind. In a recent interview, Michela shares how the idea for TOP came about, insights on initial results, and plans for evaluating and scaling in Italy and beyond. [Read more »](#)

## Emerging lessons on preventing conflict and violence

Since launching in 2017, J-PAL and Innovations for Poverty Action's joint [Governance, Crime, and Conflict](#)

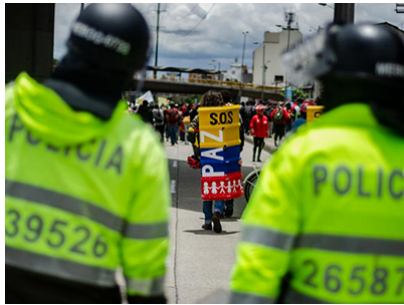


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Initiative (GCCCI) has synthesized policy lessons from randomized evaluations on topics ranging from policing to peacebuilding. GCCCI recently launched a second edition of its [Evidence Wrap-Up](#), which reviews evidence on strengthening justice systems, combating violence against women, and more. [Read more »](#)

Learn about J-PAL's response to Covid-19

### EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION MAKING



Photo: Novi Purwono | Shutterstock.com

#### Improved targeting to combat Covid-19-induced poverty in Indonesia

Social protection programs can provide critical support to those suffering from the adverse economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, but quickly and accurately identifying those in need can be difficult. A new Evidence to Policy case study illustrates how the Government of Indonesia leveraged existing research on community targeting methods to better target cash transfers, which reached over 8 million recipients in 2020. [Read more »](#)

### FEATURED PUBLICATION



Photo: Namrata Raha | TCD

#### Stepping up to combat diabetes in urban areas

Lifestyle diseases, like diabetes, are becoming more prevalent worldwide. While certain lifestyle changes can help prevent and manage the disease, adopting these habits requires time and effort. J-PAL affiliated professor [Rebecca Dizon-Ross](#) (University of Chicago) and coauthors found that providing financial incentives to walk at least 10,000 steps per day

increased exercise and improved physical and mental health. [Read more »](#)

### FEATURED AFFILIATED PROFESSOR



Photo: Brittany Hosea-Small

### Seema Jayachandran on the roots of gender inequality, deforestation, and corruption

In an interview with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, [Seema Jayachandran](#) (Northwestern; Co-Chair, J-PAL's Gender sector) discusses insights from her work on gender, climate change mitigation, corruption, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on her future research. [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.*



[Julian Reif](#)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



[Mauricio Romero](#)  
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México



[Benjamin Roth](#)  
Harvard Business School

### FEATURED EVENTS

### [Webinar recording] Building State Capacity for Tax Collection: Emerging Evidence and Implications for Practice

During the most recent webinar of the [Governance, Crime, and Conflict Initiative](#) series, panelists shared emerging insights from randomized evaluations on tax policy and administration in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [Watch the recording »](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

India's billionaires got richer while coronavirus pushed millions of vulnerable people into poverty

CNN Business

Surat's emissions trading scheme to be replicated in Ahmedabad: CM Rupani

The Indian Express

Why evidence should be a priority in pandemic recovery [Opinion]

Governing

Duflo offers pathways to a better future, lessons from Covid-19 crisis

UNCTAD

Study: Effective campaign, free distribution can triple mask usage

Dhaka Tribune

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## NEW RESEARCH PAPERS

The Economic Impact of Depression Treatment in India

Manuela Angelucci, Daniel Bennett

Urban Networks and Targeting: Evidence from Liberia

Lori Beaman, Niall Keleher, Jeremy Magruder, Carly Trachtman

Gender Bias in Assessments of Teacher Performance

Sabrin Beg, Anne Fitzpatrick, Adrienne M. Lucas

Augmenting State Capacity for Child Development: Experimental Evidence from India

Alejandro J. Ganimian, Karthik Muralidharan, Christopher R. Walters

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## FEATURED JOBS

Education Manager, Cambridge, MA, US

Senior Education Manager, Cambridge, MA, US

Finance Associate, Cambridge, MA, US

Policy Associate (Environment, Energy, and Climate Change), Cambridge, MA, US

Senior Policy Associate (Environment, Energy, and Climate Change), Cambridge, MA, US

Policy and Research Manager (Gender), Mexico City, Mexico

Director/Associate Director of Research, Cairo, Egypt

Data Manager (IDEA Lab), New Delhi, India  
Research Associate, India  
Research Associate, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Training Manager, Jakarta, Indonesia

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