



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

DECEMBER 6TH, 2013

*“Empowering social programs:
the strenght of insights and scientific evidence”*

Kirsch Auditorium - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BTB workshop



Program

“Empowering Social Programs: the strength of insights and scientific evidence.”

3:00pm Opening with Andrea Bocelli - ABF Founder, Jeff Newton - MIT Vice President, Amb. Claudio Bisogniero – Italian Ambassador in the United States,

3:30pm Interventions

“J-PAL: its research, policy, and capacity building mission”- R. GLENNERSTER, Executive Director J-PAL

“Research in a Sector: Urban Services, Water and Sanitation”- M. MOBARAK, Initiative Co-Chair Associate Professor of Economics, Yale

“Research in a Sector: Education”- S. POWERS, Program Manager Education, J-PAL

“Andrea Bocelli Foundation: working for empowering people and communities through Water and Education projects” - L. BIANCALANI, ABF President

“Water and Education projects in Haiti” – J. GILLE, Project Manager Fondation St. Luc, ABF Partner in Haiti

4.50-5.00pm “Question and Answer”- M. SHOTLAND, Director of Training, J-PAL

Andrea Bocelli Foundation

ABF VISION

"I strongly believe that love does justice. And it is for this simple reason that we are all responsible for building a better world. Since love energizes faith, the opposite must also be true. The amazing lives we have been gifted, offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give the less fortunate a better future and opportunities."

ABF MISSION

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation was created to help people in need due to illness, disability, poverty and social exclusion by promoting and supporting national and international projects that support the overcoming of these barriers and full self-expression.



ABF BREAK THE BARRIERS PROGRAM: Empowering people and communities

The Break the Barrier Program stems from the desire to support projects contributing to breaking down barriers, be they economic or cultural, in Italy and in developing countries.

For the Andrea Bocelli Foundation, breaking down a barrier means to be successful in the desire to offer every human being freedom and dignity to live the life they deserve.

Give people the ability to provide for themselves

by creating opportunities for redemption in terms of economic and social independence by acting responsibly on real needs and activating people's unexpressed energy.

The Foundation operates through its actions achieving real opportunities for improvement for the people concerned, measuring one's actions not in terms of the sums of money invested, but in relation to its effective contribution to people.



About J-PAL

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) was established in 2003 as a research center at the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since then, it has grown into a global network of researchers who use randomized evaluations to answer critical policy questions in the fight against poverty.

J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is based on scientific evidence, and research is translated into action. We do this through three main activities:

- **Conducting Rigorous Impact Evaluations:** J-PAL researchers conduct randomized evaluations to test and improve the effectiveness of programs and policies aimed at reducing poverty.
- **Policy Outreach:** J-PAL's policy group analyzes and disseminates research results and builds partnerships with policymakers to ensure that policy is driven by evidence, and effective programs are scaled up.
- **Capacity Building:** J-PAL equips practitioners with the expertise to carry out their own rigorous evaluations through training courses and joint research projects.

J-PAL is organized both by regional offices and by research themes called Programs. J-PAL's headquarters is a center within the Economics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), with independent regional offices in Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia that are hosted by a local university. J-PAL's Programs include Agriculture, Education, Environment and Energy, Finance, Health, Labor Markets, and Political Economy and

Governance. These regional offices and Programs are directed by members of the J-PAL Board, which is composed of J-PAL affiliates and senior management. However, J-PAL's affiliated professors set their own research agenda and raise funds to support their evaluations. J-PAL and its partners are driven by a shared belief in the power of scientific evidence to understand what really helps the poor, and what does not. J-PAL's many partners include:

- Nonprofits (NGOs) and governments that run the programs that J-PAL affiliates evaluate;
- Governments, foundations, international development organizations, and NGOs that use J-PAL's policy lessons on what works in poverty reduction to scale up the most cost-effective programs;
- Donors that provide funding for evaluations, scale-ups and special initiatives, and
- Research centers that help administer J-PAL affiliates' randomized evaluations and who employ the staff associated with these evaluations. Partners include Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Centre for Microfinance, Center for International Development's Micro-Development Initiative, Center of Evaluation for Global Action, Ideas 42, and the Small Enterprise Finance Center.

The lab is named for Abdul Latif Jameel, father of MIT alumnus Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, who supported the Poverty Action Lab with three major endowments in 2005, and in 2009 gave another substantial gift of endowment support.

Mr. Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel is one of the member of Andrea Bocelli Foundation Advisory Board.

2nd BTB Workshop December 6th, 2013

"Empowering Social Programs: the strength of insights and scientific evidence".

This workshop is an opportunity to share experiences and research regarding health, water and education, taking into account the elements that work together to enhance the effectiveness of the programs and policies:

- **Insight** - with the aim of uncovering profound needs - guides us as one of the driving forces when devising possible solutions
- **Perseverance of Action** is an essential premise to changing the conditions
- **Scientific Evidence**, the measurement of progress and impact, with the aim of improving insight, and through a virtuous circle, redefining the strategy of action to increase effectiveness.

The 3 elements described above, indeed, pave the way for a process that can help public and private institutions provide tools and services that are useful to the community.

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation believes it is important to support both the actions of those who work directly in the field as well as the work of those, such as the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, who use a scientific approach to assess, measure and direct the impact of the aforementioned actions.

MARIO PLATERO

MODERATOR

BIO: Mario Calvo-Platero has been since 1982 the U.S. Editor of *Il Sole 24 Ore*, the largest financial daily in Europe by circulation, with 300.000 copies a day. The paper is considered to be the best quality national paper in Italy.

In his capacity Mr. Platero manages the N.A. Bureau, writes columns, is the host of a daily radio talk show and covers mostly economics and politics, participating in major international trips as part of the White House Press Corp and major international gatherings such as the G7/G8-G20 Summits. Mr. Platero interviewed President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush and President George W. Bush at the White House. He has also interviewed President Bill Clinton during his electoral campaign. He has been the first Italian journalist to extensively report about the long term revolutionary aspects of "Reaganomics". He published in 1996 "Il Modello Americano", an award winning book on the American economic and political revolution of the 80s and 90s. He founded and is managing director of EMC Inc., a media company that operates in real time information and of *Review Italy*, a monthly newsletter on Italian political and business affairs.

Before working in journalism, Mr. Platero worked briefly for the United Nations and for few years in banking in New York. He graduated from the University of Turin in Economics. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and an Arturo Osio Scholarship and gained a Master's degree in International Affairs at Columbia University where he also attended PhD seminars in political science.



Mario Platero

RACHEL GLENNERSTER

Abstract:

Rachel Glennerster will give an introduction to J-PAL and its three pillars of activity: Research, to produce evidence of what works and why, Policy, to disseminate these lessons and promote more evidence-based programs and policies, and Training, to increase quantity and quality of Randomized Evaluations within and outside of the J-PAL network.



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Global Scientific
Director, J-PAL
Africa Affiliated
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BIO: Rachel Glennerster is Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Her research includes randomized evaluations of community driven development, the adoption of new agricultural technologies, and improving the accountability of politicians in Sierra Leone; empowerment of adolescent girls in Bangladesh; the behavioral economics of complying with tuberculosis medication in Pakistan; and health, governance, education, and microfinance programs in India. She serves as Scientific Director for J-PAL Africa, Co-Chair of J-PAL's Agriculture Program, and is a board member of the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI). She is lead academic for Sierra Leone for the International Growth Center. Between 2007 and 2010 she served on the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact.

Rachel Glennerster helped establish Deworm the World, which has helped deworm 23 million children worldwide. Before joining J-PAL, she worked at the IMF and Her Majesty's Treasury. She has a PhD in economics from Birkbeck College, University of London, and is coauthor of Strong Medicine: Creating Incentives for Pharmaceutical Research on Neglected Diseases.

MUSHFIQ MOBARAK

Abstract:

Mushfiq Mobarak will share innovative solutions to the problem of inadequate access to urban water, sanitation, and hygiene services in cities in Asia and Africa, especially in neighborhoods with concentrations of poor people. He will discuss J-PAL's Urban Services Initiative (USI), which was set up to test these solutions and find which ones work.



**Affiliated Professor
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BIO: Mushfiq Mobarak is a development economist at Yale with interests in environment, and public finance issues. He has two main lines of research: (1) field experiments exploring ways to induce people in developing countries to adopt technologies or behaviors that are likely to be welfare improving, and (2) using field experiments and other methods to study the management of water resources and other infrastructure. He has experiments on migration, infrastructure (roads and electricity), water user associations, rainfall insurance, and environmental technologies (stoves, rainwater harvesting, conservation agriculture) ongoing in Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda.

SHAWN POWERS

Abstract:

Shawn Powers will discuss many of the lessons we have learned in primary education, and the major gaps in knowledge in post-primary education.



**Policy Manager,
J-PAL Global
Program Manager,
Labor Markets
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BIO: Shawn Powers joined J-PAL in 2011 and manages the Education and Labor Markets programs, which include J-PAL's Post-Primary Education Initiative and Youth Initiative. Shawn also works on policy publications, cost-effectiveness analysis, and outreach to disseminate lessons from J-PAL evaluations to the policy community. He has worked on evaluations of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) electricity projects in Tanzania and of grassroots development projects in the Philippines as a Fulbright Scholar. Shawn worked for three years in the domestic anti-hunger network, serving as an Emerson National Hunger Fellow and later as the Director of Advocacy at Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage, AK. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Williams College; an M.Phil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge, where he was a 2008 Gates Scholar; and an M.P.A. in Economics and Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

LAURA BIANCALANI

Abstract:

Insight and scientific evidence, social programs and the impact on communities, the will of those involved, and the capacity to understand the real possibilities to get out of poverty, which besides being economic poverty is also the result of a lack of opportunities.

ABF wants to create networks among all the stakeholders who are interested in social programs, a living laboratory in which there is an exchange and sharing, there is cooperation and mutual support, and the will to understand the plight of the poor while seeking for answers to their condition, operating to create projects and effective social policies.

We deeply believe and I would like to borrow the words of "Poor Economics" by Esther Duflo e Abhijit Banerjee, that in the fight against poverty, in developing countries as well as in Italy, hope and listening are essential and knowledge is crucial.



**Andrea Bocelli
Foundation
President**

BIO: Laura Biancalani, President of ABF Andrea Bocelli Foundation since it was established (2011) has also been performing activities as Head of Institutional activities and Legal Affairs at the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato (since 2005). Graduated in Law at the University of Pisa, later she obtained a master in Management of Cooperative and non profit Companies at the School of Business Administration of the University L. Bocconi in Milan. And just in the field of non profit she has gained experience for more than ten years through several cooperations with national and international institutions. Among the positions that she currently holds is that of Chief Operating Officer of an association that carries out micro-credit activities in the territories of Bethlehem and East Jerusalem.

JAEBETS GILLE

Abstract:

One third of the population of Haiti does not have access to water, and worse, clean drinking water, Port-au-Prince's population (which includes most of the people whom we serve) has 60% of people suffering from the lack of clean water with an even higher percentage without access to clean drinking water. Also education is one of the prominent sectors for the socio-economic development of a country. It guarantees the viability of dignified living conditions. Presently, Haiti has 85% illiteracy with many children unable to receive an education due to poverty. Education has been quite costly in Haiti.



**Project Manager
Fondation St. Luc,
US**

BIO: My name is Jaebets Jn Gilles and I was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on December 24, 1982. I was born into a poor family of twelve children. Thanks to my mother, may she rest in peace, a courageous and brave woman and who made many sacrifices for her children, I am where I am today. I am the director of the St. Luke Foundation's first Vocational school in Haiti where we provide education to more than 350 students in Nursing, Telecommunications, Electricity and Plumbing and in the near future, Teacher Certification program. I am also the Manager of Information and the Community Development projects of the St. Luke Foundation. I have been tremendously blessed to have finished my university studies and have earned degrees in Theology, Law and Community Development. Now, I am married to a wonderful woman who is as passionate as I am about Community Development, Rebecca my partner for life.

My passion is philanthropy, human rights, spiritual endeavors and the involvement of Haitian youth in the socio-economic development of our nation.

MARC SHOTLAND

Q&A SECTION MODERATOR



**Director of Training,
J-PAL Global Senior
Research Manager,
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BIO: Marc Shotland holds an Masters in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID) degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelors degree in Economics from Williams College. He first joined Professors Duflo and Banerjee in the summer of 2002 to run randomized evaluations of education interventions as a field research associate in India. In 2004 he joined the Poverty Action Lab's Cambridge office as a research manager. He left in 2006 to earn his Masters at Harvard before rejoining J-PAL in 2008 in his current position.

BREAK THE BARRIERS Workshop 2012 - Pisa

Thanks to all ABF volunteers





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