

Economics Department Newsletter

January 7, 2013

Contents

Seminars and events

1. CDE Seminar: [Shawn Powers](#), [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#), will talk about “The Poverty Action Lab and Randomized Evaluation of Policy in Developing Countries”

Job and internship opportunities

2. [Job and internship opportunities in economic and public policy research](#)
3. Information session on job opportunities at the [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#)
4. [Summer Internship and Post-Graduation Opportunities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York](#).
5. [Research Associate position at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City](#)
6. [Behavioral Data Analyst position available at Betterment, an online financial advisor](#)

Other opportunities for students

7. [Property and Environment Research Center, Undergraduate and Graduate Colloquium](#)

About the newsletter

8. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe.

Seminars and events

1. Shawn Powers “The Poverty Action Lab and Randomized Evaluation of Policy in Developing Countries”

At 4:00PM on Tuesday January 8th in the CDE classroom, [Shawn Powers](#) of the [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#) (J-PAL), will give a talk about J-PAL and randomized evaluation of policy in developing countries. J-PAL is a “global network of researchers who use randomized evaluations to answer critical policy questions in the fight against

poverty.” Shawn is a graduate of Williams, Class of 2004, and currently manager the Education and Labor Markets programs at J-PAL. This talk will be geared especially towards CDE fellows interested in how randomized evaluations might be applied to evaluate policies in their own countries. He’ll provide a brief overview of J-PAL and its core activities (Evaluations, Capacity Building, and Policy Outreach), and will provide examples of how J-PAL has worked with governments in all three capacities. He’ll then discuss in more detail a long-running partnership with the Government of Indonesia. Third, he’ll discuss lessons learned from J-PAL's experience with government-research partnerships, and consider some examples of practical issues involved in implementing randomized evaluations in developing countries, and will suggest some resources for those who are interested in learning more.

Job and internship opportunities

2. Job and internship opportunities in economic and public policy research

Now is the time of year when many non-profit organizations involved in economic and public policy research (“think tanks”), government agencies, and public policy related consulting firms start posting job and summer internship opportunities. I’ve assembled a list of such places that frequently higher recent college graduates for research assistant positions, or current undergraduates as summer interns, along with an updated set of links to the parts of their web pages listing employment opportunities and internships. You can find all these links at:

<<http://econ.williams.edu/students/econ-research-jobs/job-search-advice/policy-research-jobs>>

We also have a page providing advice on finding such jobs at:

<<http://econ.williams.edu/students/econ-research-jobs/job-search-advice>>

3. Information session on job opportunities at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

Shawn Powers (see item 1 above) will also be giving a talk at the Williams Career Center from **7-8 pm on Tuesday January 8th** in the Mears Lewis Room. His description: “Williams students in economics and related disciplines who have a passion for applying their skills to the challenge of reducing global poverty are encouraged to attend this information session about the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Shawn Powers '04, Policy Manager at J-PAL's global office at MIT, will meet with students to talk about career opportunities at J-PAL and its partner organizations, including Innovations for Poverty Action. J-PAL is a premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty by ensuring that policy is based on rigorous evidence. J-PAL seeks to accomplish this mission by conducting randomized impact evaluations throughout the world, building capacity among its partners to conduct rigorous evaluations, and through outreach to the policy community. J-PAL will be recruiting through the end of January for positions beginning in summer of 2013, and seeks applicants with strong quantitative

and writing skills and a demonstrated commitment to international development. You can learn more about J-PAL here: <<http://www.povertyactionlab.org/>>”

4. Summer Internship and Post-Graduation Opportunities at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has openings available for summer interns and for research analysts. For information on the opportunities and information on how to apply, go to:

<<http://www.newyorkfed.org/careers/undergrads.html>>

They’ve also provided us with some tips on how to improve your chances of landing an internship or job with them, which you can find at:

<<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/January2013/NewYorkFedTips.pdf>>

5. Research Associate position at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City seeks applications for Research Associate positions. For more information on the position and how to apply, go to:

<<https://frb.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=228420>>

6. Behavioral Data Analyst position available at Betterment, an online financial advisor

Betterment, a firm that provides online financial advice, has job openings for the position of Behavioral Data Analyst. For more information on the position and how to apply, go to:

<<https://www.betterment.com/about/jobs/data-behavioral-analyst/>>

Other opportunities for students

7. Property and Environment Research Center, Undergraduate and Graduate Colloquium

The Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) is an institute “dedicated to improving environmental quality through property rights and markets.” They are offering a colloquium for undergraduate and graduate students “designed to introduce students to a property rights and market approach to environmental issues.” PERC will provide a full scholarship to cover tuition, meals, lodging, and a stipend of \$500 for each student's travel expenses. The colloquium is limited to 24 students and the application process is competitive. It takes place Bozeman, Montana on June 17–22, 2013, and the deadline to apply is March 15th. For further information, go to:

<<http://perc.org/programs/undergraduate-and-graduate-colloquium>>

About the newsletter

8. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe

Please contact [Jon Bakija](#) with any news, events, or other information that you would like to send around to Economics and Political Economy faculty and majors, as well as anyone who has manifested an interest in the field by taking a class in either department this semester. If you would prefer not to receive the newsletter, please contact [Helen McShane](#) to unsubscribe.