

EVIDENCE-BASED ECONOMICS

“More Evidence, Less Poverty,” by Dean Karlan, demonstrated a scientific approach to economic change refreshing to one who, like me, is dumbfounded by the abstruse, casuistic thinking of professional economists. Unfortunately, the author's ego was not constrained by your editors' blue pencil. Others' useful work in this freshly turned and important field might have been mentioned. For example, studies similar to Karlan's, including assessments of microloan programs, have been done by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, both at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Further, I long for an article by a political scientist who uses such approaches to demonstrate how civic engagement might be encouraged. In particular, Big Data has transformed “get out the vote” campaigns.

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