

PROPOSAL: FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

**Dean Karlan, Assistant Professor
Department of Economics**

Professor Karlan is looking for several full-time summer interns for the summer of 2006 to work on a variety of projects in developing countries and the United States. The work abroad will focus on microfinance. The domestic work may either work with data from abroad, or on political economy research in the United States (voting and charitable contributions).

For the domestic project: Professor Karlan (economics) and Professor Gerber (political science) are working on a series of projects on voting behavior, persuasion and media. The studies are mostly revolving around field experiments and survey work in the United States for the November 2006 election. Research assistance over the summer will be needed to help organize databases, conduct preliminary analysis, and work with organizations to implement and coordinate field experiments.

For the international project: Professor Karlan has a series of field experiments in developing countries on microfinance, in particularly employing lessons from behavioral economics to understand financial decision-making of the poor and to design better financial products to help the poor achieve their financial goals. The work will require conducting literature reviews, data analysis and survey design, depending on the stage of the project in which the students gets involved.

For more information about the general theme and approach of the research, look at M.I.T. Jameel Poverty Action Lab website, at www.povertyactionlab.org.

Requirements: Candidate should be able to work a minimum of 8 weeks between June 1 and August 15 and have strong quantitative and writing skills. Fluency in Spanish is a requirement for positions in Mexico and Peru. Positions in the United States will require comfort with Stata and/or comfort conducting literature reviews of both academic and policy publications.