

# J. Douglas Parkerson

---

Innovations for Poverty Action  
101 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510

dparkerson@poverty-action.org  
+1 (203) 772-2216 T  
+1 (203) 233-0749 M

---

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

*Feb 2016 to present*      **Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)**      *New Haven, CT*  
*Research Scientist, Path-to-Scale Research*

- Lead independent research with a focus on impact evaluations of promising solutions to poverty problems at scale

*Feb 2013 to Jan 2016*      **Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)**      *New Haven, CT*  
*Director, Project Development/Regional Programs Director, E. Africa and Latin America*

- Supported the development of policy-relevant impact evaluations throughout the organization and especially in IPA's East Africa and Latin American country programs
- Oversaw matchmaking of potential implementation partners with appropriate researchers for collaboration
- Managed IPA's Research Review Committee to ensure high quality and feasibility of research proposals written by current and prospective IPA researchers
- Provided management oversight for all IPA country programs in East Africa and Latin America
- Led global efforts to develop and maintain a vibrant network of researchers in a broad variety of sectors and direct strategic outreach to new researchers

*Jul 2010 to Jan 2013*      **Innovations for Poverty Action**      *Kampala, Uganda*  
*Country Director, Uganda*

- Directed a large IPA country office with a portfolio of over 20 randomized controlled trials across various sectors and one scale-up operation
- Collaborated with principal investigators, project development staff and local IPA Uganda staff to develop and secure funding for new impact evaluations
- Managed the relationships of dozens of partners including international and local NGOs, microfinance banks, multinational institutions, and government agencies
- Disseminated and promoted IPA's work through presentations at workshops and in one-on-one meetings with individual institutions
- Organized and led an Executive Education course attended by government officials and local and international NGOs from the East Africa region

*Sep 2006 to Jul 2010*      **Innovations for Poverty Action**      *La Paz, Bolivia*  
*Country Director, Bolivia*

- Launched IPA's country program in Bolivia and directed the NGO's operations in the country
- Designed, planned and implemented impact evaluations in cooperation with local partners, academics, and international NGOs and donor organizations
- Initiated and developed strategic partnerships with local Bolivian institutions
- Disseminated findings from IPA's work at national and international conferences and in one-on-one meetings with individual institutions

Oct 2005 to **Innovations for Poverty Action** Cambridge, MA  
 Sep 2006 Program Coordinator, Charitable Giving Research Initiative

- Conducted randomized control trials of behavioral-based fundraising techniques through direct mail campaigns of nonprofit organizations
- Established collaborative partnerships with nonprofit organizations
- Secured funding for the Charitable Giving Research Initiative

Aug 2004 to **Soluz, Inc.** Santiago, Dominican Republic;  
 Apr 2005 Rural Finance Intern Chelmsford, MA

- Developed models for financing renewable energy systems in remote rural households in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Designed, implemented, and analyzed the results of an assessment of the potential for microfinance institutions in the Dominican Republic to finance rural photovoltaic home systems
- Conducted interviews of microfinance institution representatives and photovoltaic dealers.

Jan 1996 to **Cornerstone Securities/ Protrader Securities** Austin, TX  
 Jun 2003 Securities Trader

- Managed the growth of an investment/trading account
- Generated average annual capital gains in excess of 200 percent over a seven year period
- Made dozens of risk/reward decisions daily based on technical analysis
- Trained new traders in technical analysis techniques

*Countries*

Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia

**EDUCATION**

---

2005 **Brandeis University** Waltham, MA  
 Heller School of Social Policy and Management  
 Master of Arts in Sustainable International Development

1993 **Texas A&M University** College Station, TX  
 Bachelor of Science  
 Aerospace Engineering

**RESEARCH**

---

*Principal Investigator*

"Research for Effective COVID-19 Response (RECOVR) Panel Survey in ten countries" with Shana Warren and Elliot Collins; Funded by UBS Optimus Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Mulago Foundation and an anonymous donor; 2020-21

---

“Falling Living Standards During the COVID-19 Crisis: Quantitative Evidence from Nine Developing Countries” with Shana Warren, Elliott Collins, Günther Fink, among others. *Science Advances*, 2021.

“Impact of growth charts on child stunting and caregiver awareness in Zambia” with Peter Rockers, Günther Fink, and Dorothy Sikazwe; Funded by Sint Antonius Stichting; 2020-ongoing.

“Impact of home-based growth charts on child linear growth in Indonesia” with Peter Rockers, Günther Fink, Milda Irhamni, and Gumilang Aryo Sahadewo; Funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; 2019-ongoing.

“Graduating to Resilience: A multi-arm randomized evaluation of an ultra-poor graduation program in western Uganda” with Lasse Brune, Nathanael Goldberg, Dean Karlan and Chris Udry; Funded by USAID’s Food for Peace program; 2018-ongoing.

“Accountability Can Transform Health: A Randomized Evaluation of a Community-Based Monitoring Program of Healthcare Providers in Uganda” with Daniel Posner and Pia Raffler ([project](#)); Funded by the UK’s Department for International Development; 2014-2016. Recipient of the **2018 Best Paper Award from the Experimental Research Section of the American Political Science Association**. Working paper:

“Can Citizen Pressure Be Induced to Improve Public Service Provision?” With Pia Raffler and Daniel N. Posner (2019). Working Paper available at: [https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/publications/Citizen%20Pressure\\_Oct302020.pdf](https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/publications/Citizen%20Pressure_Oct302020.pdf). (R&R at the *American Political Science Review*)

“Outcome Verification for Water Services Trust Fund – Kenya” with Jessie Pinchoff; Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; 2017-2018.

“Qualitative Follow-Up Study of Participants in a Home-Based Growth Monitoring Impact Evaluation in Zambia” with Claire Muntalima, Peter Rockers, and Günther Fink; Funded by Evidence Action and an anonymous donor; 2018.

#### *Research Management of RCTs (as Country Director or Research Coordinator)*

##### Latin America

“Getting to the Top of the Mind: How Reminders Increase Savings” Bolivia. PIs: Dean Karlan, Margaret McConnell, Sendhil Mullainathan, Jonathan Zinman, forthcoming *Management Science* ([paper](#)) 2008-09

“Introducing Financial Services to Newly Monetized Amazonian Communities,” Bolivia. PIs: Ricardo Godoy, Dean Karlan, Margaret McConnell, Jonathan Zinman ([project](#)) 2009-10

“Group versus Individual Micro-Lending in Peru.” PIs: Dean Karlan, Xavi Gine, Alberto Chong, Greg Fischer ([project](#)) 2010

##### Sub-Saharan Africa

“Testing the Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services to Enhance Conservation in Uganda.” PIs: Seema Jayachandran, Joost de Laat, Charlotte Stanton, Eric Lambin ([project](#), [paper](#)) 2010-13

“The Effect of Gender Equity Programs on Maternal and Child Health in Uganda.” PIs: Seema Jayachandran, Martina Björkman Nyqvist ([project](#)) 2011-13

“Northern Uganda Social Action Fund – Youth Opportunities Program Impact Evaluation,” Uganda. PIs: Chris Blattman, Nathan Fiala, Sebastian Martinez. Publication: “Generating Skilled Self Employment in Developing Countries: Experimental Evidence from Uganda,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* ([paper](#), [project](#)) 2010-12

- 
- “Enterprises for Ultra-Poor Women after War,” Uganda. PIs: Chris Blattman, Eric Green, Julian Jamison, Jeanie Annan, Christian Lehmann. Publication: “The Returns to Microenterprise Support among the Ultra-Poor,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2016 ([paper](#)) 2010-12
- “Using Messaging and Package Design to Increase Treatment Compliance with Antimalarial Medication,” Uganda. PIs: Jessica Cohen, Elif Yavuz ([project](#), [paper](#)) 2010-11
- “Feasibility and Impact of Malaria and Diagnostics in Ugandan Drug Shops,” Uganda. PIs: Jessica Cohen, Gunther Fink ([project](#), [paper](#), paper) 2010-11
- “Smoothing the Cost of Education: Primary School Savings in Uganda.” PIs: Dean Karlan, Leigh Linden ([project](#), [paper](#)) 2010-13
- “Starting a Lifetime of Saving: Teaching the Practice of Saving to Ugandan Youth,” Uganda. PIs: Dean Karlan, Julian Jamison, Jonathan Zinman ([project](#), [paper](#)) 2010-12
- “Providing Sexual and Reproductive Health Advice via SMS in Uganda.” PIs: Dean Karlan, Julian Jamison, Pia Raffler ([project](#), [paper](#)) 2010
- “Testing the Impact of Access to a Savings Account,” Uganda. PIs: Pascaline Dupas, Jonathan Robinson 2010-12
- “Returns to Consulting for Women Entrepreneurs,” Uganda. PIs: Greg Fischer, Dean Karlan, Meredith Startz ([project](#)) 2011-13
- “Unconditional Cash Grants for People with HIV/AIDS in Uganda.” PIs: Achyuta Adhvaryu, Pamela Jakiela, Dean Karlan ([project](#)) 2012
- “Evaluating Village Savings and Loan Associations in Uganda.” PIs: Dean Karlan, Bram Thuysbaert, ([project](#)) 2010-11
- “To Charge or not to Charge: Evidence from a Health Products Experiment in Uganda.” Greg Fischer, Dean Karlan, Margaret McConnell, Pia Raffler ([paper](#)) 2011-12
- “Demand for Rainwater Harvesting Devices in Uganda.” PI: Mushfiq Mobarak ([project](#)) 2010-11
- “Policing Politicians: Citizen Empowerment and Political Accountability in Uganda.” PIs: Macartan Humphreys, Jeremy Weinstein ([paper](#)) 2011
- “Strengthening Local Political Accountability in Uganda.” PIs: Guy Grossman, Kristin Michelitch ([project](#)) 2011-13

---

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

---

- Replicating and Extending an Influential Study of Community-Based Monitoring and Accountability of Health Services in Uganda, What Works Global Summit, London, September 2016.
- Using Evidence for Peace and Accountability, IPA’s Evidence Matters series, New York, 2015.
- Development Impact Lab Launch, University of California, Berkeley, Center for Effective Global Action, 2013.
- Innovations for Poverty Action Brownbag series, Community Connector Gender and Nutrition project in Uganda, New Haven, CT, 2013.
- Uganda Office of the Prime Minister, Government Evaluation Facility, Evaluation Workshop with 3ie; “Randomized Evaluations: IPA’s Experience in Uganda,” Kampala, Uganda, 2012.
- Post Conflict Recovery and Development: The Case of Uganda. Humboldt University and the Economic Policy Research Centre, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 2012.
- Improving Service Delivery in Uganda: Stakeholder Workshop: IPA, Kampala, Uganda, 2012.
- The Global Nutrition CRSP Workshop on Evaluation Design of Integrated Nutrition and Agriculture Programs, Jinja, Uganda, 2012.
- Knowledge Sharing among INGOs in Agriculture and Private Sector Development, “Randomized Evaluations: IPA’s Experience in Uganda,” Kampala, Uganda, 2011
- Uganda National Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group Subcommittee on Evaluation, Office of the Prime Minister, 2011.
- Harnessing the Potentials of Adolescent and Youth in Uganda Conference, hosted by BRAC, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda 2011.
-

---

Mas alla de Credito y Ahorro: Servicios Integrados para Erradicar la Pobreza, Freedom from Hunger,  
Medellin, Colombia, 2009.  
Evidence-Based Development Workshop, Swedish International Development Agency, La Paz, Bolivia,  
2007.

---

*LANGUAGES*

---

*English (native), Spanish (fluent)*

---

---

Updated 1-29-2022