

## A Nobel lecture

SIEF-supported researcher and winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics Michael Kremer delivered a lecture on Experimentation, Innovation, and Economics as part of the [2019 Nobel Prize Lectures](#). He argues that experiments are not only useful for studying existing policies but can also be helpful for identifying new products and policies that can improve the welfare of millions, as they require researchers to spend time in the field, collaborate with practitioners and specialists in other fields, study specific and practical problems, and iterate within and across research teams.

## How long do the gains of preschool interventions last?

SIEF supported [an evaluation in Ghana](#) that estimated [the impact of a teacher training program](#) on teacher practices and students' school readiness in preschool classrooms at the end of the school year. Researchers found [sustained impacts of school readiness](#) the next school year, as well as persistent negative impacts of a training variant that sought to make parents aware of the child-centered pedagogy that underlined the training. Now, after the children have reached primary school, [evaluation results](#) suggest a sustained advantage in literacy and executive function skills among children whose preschool teachers had received training and a sustained disadvantage in numeracy for children whose parents had also received the awareness intervention.



## Speaking of long-term effects...

How long do the impacts of cash transfers last? SIEF-supported researchers [who had estimated the impact of cash grants](#) among Uganda youth after four years went back to

check on the sample nine years later. They found that the income and consumption advantage experienced by grant recipients over the control group had faded out, although grant recipients were still more likely to be engaged in a skilled trade. SIEF's [most recent Evidence to Policy note](#) summarizes the [results of the study](#).



### Early childhood development through a gender lens

The Center for Global Development recently hosted a [conference](#) focused on the connections between early childhood development and women's economic empowerment. Multiple SIEF-supported researchers presented their work funded both through SIEF and its predecessor, the Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund, including David Evans on [public childcare in Brazil](#), Emanuela Galasso on [a parenting program in Chile](#), Pamela Jakiela on the role of big sisters in their siblings' development, Sharon Wolf on the [differences between parent and teacher expectations](#), and two keynote lectures by Orazio Attanasio and Lia Fernald. You can see the video of the whole event [here](#).

*Happy Holidays from the SIEF Team*

