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Invite: Aligning internal data capabilities with external research partnerships

28 September 2020 | 17:00 | [Join the webinar](#)

A new data policy in the City of Cape Town in 2016 led to a productive cooperation between the City and academic researchers – including researchers from [The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Africa \(JPAL-Africa\)](#) based at the University of Cape Town (UCT) – to create systematic data access.

Associate Professor Brendan Maughan-Brown led the creation of J-PAL Africa's [Innovations in Data and Experiments for Action \(IDEA\) Lab](#), at UCT which aims to support governments, firms, and non-profit organisations who want to make their administrative data accessible to researchers; analyse it to improve decision-making; and use it to design and evaluate innovative programs that contribute to alleviating poverty.

This partnership between local government and university researchers prioritised strategic use of city administrative data to inform decision making for key policy challenges, including a 2018 drought crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Associate Professor Kelsey Jack (University of California Santa Barbara; Co-Chair, Environment, Energy, and Climate Change, J-PAL) will present on the chapter, written with Maughan-Brown, Hugh Cole (City of Cape Town) and Derek Strong (University of Southern California), in the Handbook on Using Administrative Data for Research and Evidence-Based Policy. Jack is from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California.

ENDS

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