Youth Leadership and Skill-building: An Informal Conversation with Nava Ashraf

On Thursday, April 24, 2014 at noon, the Harvard Global Health Institute welcomed Professor Nava Ashraf, for an informal conversation on "Youth Leadership and Skill-building: Tools to Empower The Next Generation."

Dr. Ashraf is an Associate Professor in the Negotiations, Organizations, and Markets Unit at Harvard Business School. Professor Ashraf's research combines psychology and economics, using both lab and field experiments to test insights from behavioral economics in the context of development projects in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. Her experiments address behavior change in health and health services delivery, in agricultural production, and in microfinance. She has conducted research on questions of intra-household decision making in the areas of finance and fertility, with a special focus on women's empowerment. Her research is published in leading journals including the American Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics and the Journal of Economic Perspectives.

Professor Ashraf designed and teaches a second year MBA course in Managing Global Health, and a University-wide PhD course in Field Experiments. She has also taught in the first-year MBA sequence on Negotiation, and is part of the Executive Education program of the HBS Social Enterprise Initiative, where she teaches Impact Evaluation and Performance Measurement for Nonprofit Management.

She is a Faculty Affiliate of the Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT, dedicated to the use of randomized trials as a tool for learning what works in international development, and a Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Prior to joining HBS, she worked at the World Bank on trade negotiations between Morocco and the European Union, as a consultant for several nonprofit organizations in developing countries, and as founder of a business skills training institute for women in west Africa.

Professor Ashraf received her PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 2005, and her BA in Economics and International Relations from Stanford University. She has been awarded a Queen's Jubilee Medal for service by the...
Government of Canada, and is the youngest person ever to receive the Order of British Columbia.

This lunchtime roundtable discussion with Professor Ashraf was part of the Harvard Global Health Institute’s Informal Conversation series. The Informal Conversation Series offer faculty and students the opportunity to engage in dialogue on cutting-edge cross-disciplinary issues. The Conversation took place from 12 noon to 1:30 PM on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at the Harvard Global Health Institute, 104 Mt. Auburn Street, 3rd floor, Cambridge.