Research positions available in “Big Data and Development”

The U.C. Berkeley Data-Intensive Development Lab explores how novel sources of data, and new computational algorithms, can provide insight into the causes and consequences of economic development. We are currently soliciting applications for postdocs, data scientists, and research associates, with appointment to begin in early 2020 (or possibly earlier).

The postdoc or research associate will work on interdisciplinary research challenges that lie at the intersection of development economics and statistical machine learning. Research activities will be supervised by Joshua Blumenstock (UC Berkeley School of Information), and will build on research topics including:

- Social networks in developing economies
- Measuring poverty and vulnerability using novel data and computational methods
- Fairness and privacy in machine learning
- Understanding the consequences of violence and conflict on welfare
- Financial inclusion, and new approaches to digital credit

Qualified candidates should have a graduate degree in Computer Science, Economics, Statistics, or a related field. Strong technical, analytic, and computational skills are essential: all projects involve the analysis of large, complex data, and require proficiency in one or more object-oriented programming languages. Experience with applied machine learning and econometrics are desired.

Interested individuals should send the following materials to Joshua Blumenstock (jblumenstock@berkeley.edu): a CV, a cover letter describing research interests and prior relevant experience, two writing samples, and three letters of reference. Review of applications will begin on September 15.