

BENJAMIN S. MANNING

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Cambridge, MA

Master in Public Policy, Focused on Data Science, Decision Making, and Leadership

Aug 2019 – May 2021

GPA: 3.87/4.00, *Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship for Studies in Public Policy*

Policy Thesis: Working with Precision Agriculture for Development optimizing interactive voice response systems to help low-literate Ethiopian farmers improve crop yields with machine learning models, experiments, and operations analysis

Coursework: *Data Science, Machine Learning, Leadership, Econometrics, Decision Sciences, Psychology, Economic Development*

Teaching Assistant: *Data Science for Politics (2020), Microeconomics (2020), Econometrics II (2021), Applied Policy Seminar (2021)*

Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Mathematics, Minor in Writing

Aug 2013 – May 2017

Overall GPA: 3.79/4.00, Major GPA: 3.80/4.00, *College Honors, Dean's List, Order of Omega*

Study Abroad: IDC Herzliya, Tel Aviv, Israel (2014)

Teaching Assistant: *Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability & Statistics, Differential Equations*

EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania & The Character Lab

Philadelphia, PA

Researcher

May 2021 – Present

- Collaborated with Professor Angela Duckworth on a variety of projects in psychology, neuroscience, economics, and statistics

Harvard University Department of Government

Cambridge, MA

Research Associate

May 2020 – Present

- Collaborated with Professor Jon Rogowski reviewing literature and performing exploratory analysis of 19th and 20th century U.S. Department of Interior records; scraped, cleaned, visualized, and analyzed data using R & Python for millions of employees
- Identified for trends in salary, demography, employment location, and hiring bias through text analysis and advanced use of complex regular expressions, culminating in contributions to a paper that will be published in 2021

Partners in Health & The Massachusetts Department of Health

Cambridge, MA

COVID-19 Contact Tracer

May 2020 – Aug 2020

- Traced positive COVID-19 cases and contacts to help mitigate the spread of the virus while aggregating epidemiological data
- Assisted quarantined families coping with the virus by coordinating food, medication, sanitation supplies, and emotional support

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College

Hanover, NH

Research Associate & Producer

Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

- Contributed to research on multiple projects focusing on leadership and management with Professor Sydney Finkelstein
- Created podcast series called *The Sydcast* with professor Finkelstein exploring the lives of prominent societal figures
- Produced all working parts of the podcast including marketing, creative content, guest acquisition and preparation, technical recording, audio editing, and advertising, which culminated in over 20,000 episode downloads

Council on International Education Exchange

Phetchabun, Thailand

Mathematics & English Teacher

Sep 2017 – Oct 2018

- Taught mathematics courses from pre-algebra to trigonometry in classes of up to 50 students at a public school in rural Thailand
- Redeveloped curriculum in conjunction with Thai teachers that upheld the provincial standards of education, which were updated during my tenure, while maximizing exposure to English and mathematical concepts
- Taught all levels of English to 10th graders using a combination of lectures, performances, speaking activities, and examinations

Skills

Software Languages: Python, R, SQL, Latex, Version Control - Git, Qualtrics, Microsoft Suite, C, Matlab
Packages: Python – sklearn, pandas, matplotlib, tensorflow, statsmodel; R – tidyverse, pdftools, lfe, janitor
Language: Spanish – Limited Working Proficiency; Thai – Elementary Proficiency

Certifications

Council on International Education Exchange Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certification
Wilderness First Aid; Outdoor Leadership Courses; Designated backpacking and canoeing backcountry leader

Service Work

Mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters for underprivileged students who aspire to attend college (2019 – 2021)
VIPKID Tutor teaching over 300 Chinese children English through online platform (2017 – 2020)
Sponsor volunteer for Ugandan orphans through the Village2Village Project (2009 – Present)

Hobbies

Travel: 41 countries on 6 continents; soccer; guitar; ukulele; saxophone; basketball; yoga; hiking; and Catan