Benjamin Scott Manning

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Sep 2022 – Present

- Management Science (Information Technology)

S.M., Massachusetts Institute of Technology　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Sep 2022 – Present

- Management Research
- Thesis: *A System for Automated Social Science* (In Progress)

M.P.P., Harvard University　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Aug 2019 – May 2021

- Focus on Social Policy and Data Analysis
- Certificate in Management, Leadership, & Decision Sciences
- Thesis: *Interactive Voice Response Systems for Low-Literate Farmers*

B.A., Washington University in St. Louis　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Aug 2013 – May 2017

- Major in Applied Mathematics
- Minor in Creative Writing

WORKING PAPERS

1. Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What, How, and When We can Learn from Homo Silicus (with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas). *R&R at The Review of Economics and Statistics*
2. Causal Magnification: No Cause is as Important as the One You're Thinking About—While You're Thinking About It (with Linnea Gandhi, Angela Duckworth, & Daniel Kahneman). *Accepted Proposal*. *Current Directions in Psychological Science.*

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

1. A System for Automated Social Science (with John J. Horton & Kehang Zhu).
2. Discovering Data-Driven Nudges to Help Students Learn (with Colin Camerer, Angela Duckworth, Marcos Gallo, & Sean Hu).
3. Prompt Engineering: Who Succeeds & How (with Mohammed Alsobay, Eaman Jahani, Christos Nicolaides, Siddharth Suri, Hong-Yi TuYe, Joe. Zhang, and David Holtz)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. *Interactive Causal Learning Conference*, Florida Atlantic University, Paper Presentation　　　Dec 2023
2. *Conference On Digital Experimentation (CODE)*, MIT, Paper Presentation　　　　　　　　Nov 2023

INVITED TALKS

1. *FutureTech Research Project*, MIT CSAIL　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nov 2023
2. *Talking to Machines AI Workshop*, Oxford University　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Sep 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow/Assistant – *Lead of Teaching Team*

- API-101Z Resources, Incentives, and Choices I: Markets and Failures; Prof. Christopher Avery (Harvard)　　　Fall 2023

Course Assistant – *Part of a Teaching Team*

- 15.572 Analytics Lab; Profs Sinan Aral & Abdullah Almaatouq (MIT)　　　　　　　　Summer 2023

- OIDD-7050 Leading with Grit; Prof. Angela Duckworth (UPenn) — Spring 2022
- PSYCH-399 Undergraduate Research Seminar; Prof. Angela Duckworth (UPenn) — Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- API-500 Applied Intensive Policy Seminar; Profs. Joe Aldy & Jack Donahue (Harvard) — Spring 2021
- API-202Z Econometrics II; Prof. Teddy Svoronos (Harvard) — Spring 2021
- API-101Z Markets and Market Failure; Prof. Christopher Avery (Harvard) — Fall 2020
- DPI-610 Big Data for Politics; Prof. Benjamin Schneer (Harvard) — Spring 2020

HONORS & AWARDS

- MIT Sloan PhD Fellowship ($\sim$ \$250,000) – Full funding guaranteed for duration of doctoral studies — 2022 – 2028
- Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship (\$6,500) – Supports students of Polish descent for graduate studies — 2019 & 2022
- High Pass Honors – Master's Thesis — 2021
- College Honors – Cumulative undergraduate GPA award — 2017
- Order of Omega – Honor society recognizing high standards of undergraduate leadership — 2016
- Dean's List – Semester undergraduate GPA award (Multiple Years)
- United Valley Micah Hero Award – For projects helping to "heal the world" in Uganda over the course of 10 years — 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- *Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE)*, Technical Program Committee — Nov 2023

PRE-DOCTORAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – *Researcher* — Apr 2021 – Aug 2022

- Collaborated with Professors Angela Duckworth (Main Supervisor), Daniel Kahneman, Lyle Ungar, Colin Camerer, Mark Liberman, Louis Hickman, & Jordan Ellenberg

Harvard University & University of Chicago – *Research Associate* — May 2020 – Aug 2022

- Collaborated with Professor Jon Rogowski

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College – *Research Associate* — Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

- Collaborated with Professor Sydney Finkelstein

Phetpittayakom School – *Mathematics Teacher* — Sep 2017 – Oct 2018

- Taught mathematics courses from pre-algebra to trigonometry in classes of up to 50 students (over 500 total) at a public school in rural Thailand

Optiver – *Execution Trading Intern* — May 2016 - Aug 2016

- Supported trading teams and performed data analysis on a variety of derivatives on U.S. Exchanges

SKILLS

Programming:
Python; R; Julia; SQL; LaTeX; Qualtrics

Languages:
Spanish – Limited Working Proficiency; Thai – Elementary Proficiency

Extracurricular:
Travel: 47 countries on 6 continents; soccer; guitar; saxophone; yoga; hiking; science fiction; Settlers of Catan

Doctoral Coursework:

- **Economics:** Microeconomic Theory; Game Theory & Information Economics; Analytic Frameworks for Policy; Experimental Economics
- **Computer Science:** Machine Learning; Discrete Math & Proofs for Computer Science; Applied Network Theory Analysis
- **Statistics & Econometrics:** Estimation and Inference for Linear Causal and Structural Models; Statistical Methods in Economics; Econometrics; Design and Analysis of Experiments

REFERENCES

All references have given their permission to be contacted for recommendations or to supply references to my previous work.

- Angela Duckworth - Professor of Psychology - University of Pennsylvania - aduckworth@characterlab.org
- Christopher Avery - Professor of Public Policy - Harvard University - christopher_avery@hks.harvard.edu
- Colin Camerer - Professor of Behavioral Economics - California Institute of Technology - camerer@hss.caltech.edu
- Sydney Finkelstein - Professor Of Management - Dartmouth College - sydney.finkelstein@tuck.dartmouth.edu
- Jon Rogowski - Professor of Political Science - University of Chicago - jrogowski@uchicago.edu