

Benjamin Scott Manning

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational Social Sciences; Statistics; Causal Inference; Behavioral Science;

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sep 2022 – Onward

- Ph.D. in Information Technology - *Matriculating fall 2022*

Harvard University Aug 2019 – May 2021

- M.P.P. for Social Policy and Data Analysis, Certificate in Management, Leadership, & Decision Sciences
- Thesis: [Interactive Voice Response Systems for Low-Literate Farmers](#)

Washington University in St. Louis Aug 2013 – May 2017

- B.A. in Applied Mathematics, *College Honors*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – Researcher Apr 2021 – Aug 2022

- Collaborated with Professors Angela Duckworth (Main supervisor - UPenn), Daniel Kahneman (Princeton), Lyle Ungar (UPenn), Colin Camerer (Caltech), Louis Hickman (Virginia Tech), & Jordan Ellenberg (Wisconsin)
- Collaborated with doctoral students Linnea Gandhi (UPenn), Benjamin Lira (UPenn), and Marcos Gallo (Caltech)

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

- Collaborated with Professor Jon Rogowski (Harvard, then UChicago)

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College – Research Associate & Producer Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

- Collaborated with Professor Sydney Finkelstein (Dartmouth)

SUBMITTED PAPERS

1. Makridis, C., Hickman, L., **Manning, B.**, & Duckworth, A. L. Earnings Are Greater and Increasing in Occupations That Require Intellectual Tenacity. *Nature Human Behavior*. Submitted March 2022. [\[pdf\]](#)

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

1. Gallo, M., **Manning, B. S.**, & Camerer, B. Applications in Reinforcement Learning: Teacher Effort and Student Learning As a Multi-Armed Bandit Problem. Target: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
2. Gandhi, L., **Manning, B. S.***, Duckworth, A. L., & Kahneman, D. Life Is A Between Subjects Experiment. Target: *Psychological Science*.
3. Duckworth, A. L., & **Manning, B. S. et al.** Effects of Email Nudges & Empathy on Elementary School Math Teachers. Target: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
4. **Manning, B. S.**, Duckworth, A. L., Ungar, L., Ellenberg, J. Changes in the Formality of English through the 20th and 21st Centuries. Target: *Computational Linguistics*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – Course Lead Aug 2021 – May 2022

- Leading with Grit for MBAs with Prof. Angela Duckworth – *115 Students* – (Spring 2022)
- Undergraduate Research Seminar with Prof. Angela Duckworth – [Teaching Materials](#) – (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)

*The first two authors contributed equally to this paper.

- Tutored masters and doctoral students across multiple graduate schools in statistics and microeconomics

- Applied Intensive Policy Seminar with Profs. Joe Aldy & Jack Donahue – *50 Students* – (Spring 2021)
- Econometrics II with Prof. Teddy Svoronos – [Course Description](#) – (Spring 2021)
- Markets and Market Failure with Prof. Christopher Avery – [Course Description](#) – (Fall 2020)
- Big Data for Politics with Prof. Benjamin Schneer – (Spring 2020)

- 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

- Tutored peers in Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability & Statistics, Differential Equations, and Biostatistics

HONORS & AWARDS

- High Pass Honors – Master's Thesis (2021)
- Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship – Supports American students of Polish descent for graduate studies (2019)
- 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)

SERVICE & ADDITIONAL WORK

- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Volunteer data scientist analyzing the efficacy of speed cameras put on streets in Philadelphia in order to lower rates of death and injury from vehicle crashes (2021 – Present)
- COVID Response Team – Volunteer helping Vermont residents get COVID vaccines and other necessities (2020 – Present)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters – Volunteer mentor for underprivileged students who aspire to attend college (2019 – 2021)
- VIPKID – Tutor teaching over 300 Chinese children English through online platform (2017 – 2020)
- Village2Village Project – Sponsor & Volunteer for program supporting orphans in rural Uganda (2009 – Present)

SKILLS

Programming:

Python; R; SQL; LaTeX; Version Control – Git; STAN; Command Line/Bash; Javascript; CSS; Qualtrics; Matlab

Languages:

Spanish – Limited Working Proficiency; Thai – Elementary Proficiency

Extracurricular:

Travel: 42 countries on 6 continents; soccer; guitar; saxophone; basketball; yoga; hiking; science fiction; Settlers of Catan

REFERENCES

- 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 - Associate Professor of Political Science - University of Chicago - jrogowski@uchicago.edu
- Teddy Svoronos - Lecturer in Public Policy - Harvard University - theodore_svoronos@hks.harvard.edu