

Benjamin Scott Manning

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational Social Sciences; Machine Learning; Causal Inference; Behavioral Science;

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Aug 2019 – May 2021

- Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School
- Certificate in Management, Leadership, & Decision Sciences
- Thesis: Interactive Voice Response Systems for Low-Literate Farmers [\[pdf\]](#)

Washington University in St. Louis

Aug 2013 – May 2017

- Bachelor of Arts in Applied Mathematics, Minor in Writing
- Reichman University (IDC Herzliya) – Study Abroad in Israel (2014)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – *Researcher*

Apr 2021 – Present

- Collaborated with Professors Angela Duckworth (Main supervisor - UPenn), Daniel Kahneman (Princeton), Lyle Ungar (Upenn), Colin Camerer (Caltech), Louis Hickman (Upenn), & 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 - Present

- 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)

ARTICLES SUBMITTED

1. Makridis, C., Hickman, L., **Manning, B.**, & Duckworth, A. L. Earnings Are Greater and Increasing in Occupations That Require Intellectual Tenacity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Submitted Feb 2022. [\[pdf\]](#)

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

1. Gallo, M., **Manning, B.**, & 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.**, Duckworth, A. L., & Kahneman, D. Systematic Overconfidence in Psychological Hypothesis Development. Target: *Psychological Science*.
3. Duckworth, A. L., & **Manning, B. et al.** Effects of Email Nudges on Elementary School Math Teachers. Target: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
4. **Manning, B.**, Duckworth, A. L., Ungar, L., Ellenberg, J. Changes in the Formality of English through the 20th and 21st Centuries. Target: *Computational Linguistics*.
5. Rogowski, J., **Manning, B.** Historical Employment Changes in the Composition of the U.S. Government. Target: *American Journal of Political Science*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – *Course Lead*

Aug 2021 – Present

- Leading with Grit for MBAs with Prof. Angela Duckworth – (Spring 2022)
- Gritlab for undergraduates with Prof. Angela Duckworth – (Spring 2022)
- Undergraduate Honors Research Seminar in Psychology with Prof. Angela Duckworth – (Fall 2021)

- 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 – (Spring 2021)
- Markets and Market Failure with Prof. Christopher Avery – (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; C; Matlab

Languages:

Spanish – Limited Working Proficiency; Thai – Elementary Proficiency

Extracurricular:

Travel: 41 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