Benjamin S. Manning

bmanning (at) mit.edu ⋄ benjaminmanning.io

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ph.D. Management Science, Information Technology   2022 - Present
S.M. in Management Research   2022 - Present

Harvard University
Master in Public Policy   2019 - 2021

Washington University in St. Louis
B.A. Mathematics   2013 - 2017

Working Papers

1. Automated Social Science: A Structural Causal Model-Based Approach (with John J. Horton & Kehang Zhu). *Working Paper.* [pdf]

2. Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What Can Learn from Homo Silicus? (with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas). *R&R at The Review of Economics and Statistics.* [pdf]

3. Effect Size Magnification: No Variable is as Important as the One You're Thinking About—While You're Thinking About It (with Linnea Gandhi & Angela Duckworth). *Accepted Proposal Current Directions in Psychological Science.*

Research in Progress

1. Early Experimental Evidence on the Behavioral Dynamics of Prompt Engineering (with Mohammed Alsobay, Eaman Jahani, Christos Nicolaides, Siddharth Suri, Hong-Yi TuYe, Joe. Zhang, and David Holtz)

2. Discovering Data-Driven Nudges to Help Students Learn (with Colin Camerer, Angela Duckworth, Marcos Gallo, & Sean Hu).

Invited Presentations

Interactive Causal Learning Conference, Florida Atlantic University	Dec 2023
FutureTech Research Project, MIT CSAIL	Nov 2023
Conference On Digital Experimentation (CODE), MIT	Nov 2023
Talking to Machines AI Workshop, Oxford University	Sep 2023

Teaching

Teaching Fellow

API-101Z: Markets and Failures. Chris Avery (Harvard—MPP)	Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant

15.572: Analytics Lab. Sinan Aral & Abdullah Almaatouq (MIT—MBAn\MBA)	Summer 2023
OIDD-7050: Leading with Grit. Angela Duckworth (Penn—MBA)	Spring 2022
PSYCH-399: Research Seminar. Angela Duckworth (Penn—Undergrad)	Fall 2021, Spring 2022
API-500: Applied Intensive Policy Seminar. Joe Aldy & Jack Donahue (Harvard—MPP)	Spring 2021
API-202Z: Econometrics II. Teddy Svoronos (Harvard—MPP)	Spring 2021

| API-101Z: Markets and Market Failure. Christ Avery (Harvard—MPP) | Fall 2020 |
| DPI-610: Big Data for Politics. Benjamin Schneer (Harvard—MPP\Undergrad) | Spring 2020 |

Experience

- **Research Assistant**, John Horton (MIT) — 2023 - 2024
- **Research Assistant**, Angela Duckworth (Penn) — 2021 - 2022
- **Research Assistant**, Jon Rogowski (University of Chicago) — 2020 - 2022
- **Research Assistant**, Sydney Finkelstein (Dartmouth) — 2018 - 2019
- **High School Math Teacher**, Phetpittayakom School, Thailand — 2017 - 2018
- **Execution Trading Intern**, Optiver, Chicago — 2016

Honors & Awards

MIT Sloan PhD Fellowship ($\sim$ \$250,000)	2022 – Present
Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship (\$6,500)	2019 & 2022
College Honors—Cumulative Undergraduate GPA Award	2017
Order of Omega Honor Society	2016

Professional Service

Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE)

Doctoral Coursework

Economics

Microeconomic Theory, Game Theory & Information Economics, Analytic Frameworks for Policy, Experimental Economics, Algorithms & Behavioral Science

Statistics & Econometrics

Estimation and Inference for Linear Causal and Structural Models, Statistical Methods in Economics, Econometrics, Design and Analysis of Experiments

Computer Science

Machine Learning, Discrete Math & Proofs for Computer Science, Applied Network Theory Analysis

Skills

Language

Spanish – Limited Working Proficiency, Thai – Elementary Proficiency

Technical

Python, R, Julia, SQL, LaTeX, Qualtrics

References

John Horton - Associate Professor of Information Technologies - MIT
Angela Duckworth - Professor of Psychology - Penn
Christopher Avery - Professor of Public Policy - Harvard
Colin Camerer - Professor of Behavioral Economics - CalTech
Sydney Finkelstein - Professor Of Management - Dartmouth
Jon Rogowski - Professor of Political Science - University of Chicago