Benjamin S. Manning

Contact bmanning (at) mit.edu \diamond benjaminmanning.io

EDUCATION Massachusetts Institute of Technology

> Ph.D. Management Science, Information Technology In Progress S.M., Management Research 2024

Harvard University

M.P.P. Economic & Social Policy 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A. Mathematics (College Honors) 2017

References John J. Horton (Chair)

Christopher Norio Avery MIT Sloan School of Management Harvard Kennedy School

jjhorton (at) mit.edu christopher_avery (at) hks.harvard.edu

Angela L. Duckworth The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

duckwort (at) wharton.upenn.edu

Working PAPERS

AI Agents Can Enable Superior Market Designs (with Gili Rusak & John J. Horton)

Prompt as Theory: Constructing AI Subjects that Better Predict Humans in New Settings (with John J. Horton)

Strategic Tradeoffs Between Humans and AI in Multi-Agent Bargaining (with John J. Horton, Crystal Qian, Vivian Tsai, James Wexler, Nithum Thain & Kehang Zhu) Under Review

As Generative Models Improve, We Must Adapt Our Prompts (with Eaman Jahani, Joe Zhang, Hong-Yi TuYe, Mohammed Alsobay, Christos Nicolaides, Siddharth Suri, & David Holtz)

Under Review

Automated Social Science: Language Models as Scientist and Subjects (with John J. Horton & Kehang Zhu)

Reject & Resubmit at The Quarterly Journal of Economics

Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What Can We Learn

from Homo Silicus? (with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas) Revise & Resubmit at The Review of Economics and Statistics

Extended abstract at ACM Conference on Economics & Computation, 2024

Publications

National Megastudy Shows that Email Nudges to Elementary School Teachers Boost Student Math Achievement, Particularly When Personalized (with Angela L. Duckworth, Katherine L. Milkman, & 26 others) Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 2025

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 L. Duckworth)

Current Directions in Psychological Science, 2024

IN PROGRESS A New Kind of Economic Agent (with Christopher Avery, Bruce Schneier, and

Peter Zemsky)

Grants Schmidt Sciences AI at Work Award (\$10,000) 2025

Emergent Ventures Fast Grant (\$50,000) 2024

AWARDS & Harvard Distinction in Student Teaching Award 2025

SCHOLARSHIPS Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp 2025

Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship (\$6,500) 2019 & 2022

INVITED TALKS¹

2026: AEA Annual Meeting;

2025: KOF ETH Zurich and IZA Workshop: Matching Workers and Jobs Online; Machine Learning in Economics Summer Conference (MLESC25); Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting; International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2); ZEW Conference on the Economics of ICT; Statistical Conference in E-Commerce Research (SCECR); Wharton AI and the Future of Work Conference; AI, Mechanism Design and Human Behavior: Experiments and Theory NBER/CEME Decentralization Conference; Khipu Latin American Meeting in AI; Artificially Intelligent Social Science Workshop (Oxford); AEA Annual Meeting;

2024: Workshop on Information Systems and Economics (WISE)²; Conference on AI, Machine Learning, and Business Analytics; NABE Tech Economics Conference; Informs Annual Meeting²; Machine Learning in Science Conference; Econometric Society Interdisciplinary Frontiers Conference on Economics and AI+ML; International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)²; NBER Summer Institute—Digital Economics and AI²; ZEW Conference on the Economics of ICT; International Conference of the French Association of Experimental Economics; Instacart Economics Team Seminar; Statistical Conference in E-Commerce Research (SCECR): Wharton AI and the Future of Work Conference; International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences; MIT IDE Annual Conference; Microsoft Research AI, Cognition, and the Economy Workshop; Measuring Development: AI, the Next Generation at the World Bank;

2023: Interactive Causal Learning Conference; MIT CODE; MIT CSAIL's FutureTech Seminar; Talking to Machines AI Workshop at Oxford University

Teaching

QSTBA 830: Business Experimentation and Causal Methods, Guest Lecturer for Andrey Fradkin—Boston University, Spring 2025

¹Includes scheduled talks

²Co-author presenting joint work.

BUSN 38802: Managerial Decision Making; TA for Richard Thaler, University of Chicago—Booth London Campus, Fall 2024 (TA Rating: 4.7/5.0)

- "Thanks Ben for such a wonderful class! Best TA I've had so far"
- "Very clear in explaining concepts in an interesting 'real world' way"

API-101Z: Markets and Failures; TA for Christopher Avery, Harvard University, Spring 2022 (TA Rating: 4.6/5.0)

- "Ben is an excellent teacher-explains concepts in a way which is not condescending but is easy to understand."
- "Humor, clarity, knowledge of the subject, and patience."
- "I think his greatest strength is his evident passion for the material, and his excitement is infectious."

API-101Z: Markets and Failures; TA for Christopher Avery, Harvard University, Fall 2023 (TA Rating: 4.3/5.0)

- "Far and away the best TA out there. Kind, thoughtful, and helped me develop the skills to independently answer questions"
- "Great examples rooted in our day-to-day lives to help us understand conceptually difficult terms and make them sticky."

Affiliations MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, Heterodox Academy

Professional Service

Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE), ACM-Collective Intelligence, International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS), Sociological Science, International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)

EMPLOYMENT University of Pennsylvania 2021 - 2022 Research Assistant for Angela Duckworth and Colin Camerer

University of Chicago
Research Assistant for Jon Rogowski

Dartmouth College
Research Assistant for Sydney Finkelstein

Phetpittayakom School 2017 - 2018

High School Math Teacher in Thailand

Optiver US LLC 2016

Execution Trading Intern