

Benjamin S. Manning

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Last updated May 2024

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Management Science, Information Technology

2022 - Present

S.M. in Management Research

2022 - Present

Harvard University

M.P.P. Social & Economic Policy

2019 - 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A. Mathematics

2013 - 2017

Research

1. Automated Social Science: Language Models as Scientist and Subjects [\[pdf\]](#)
(with Kehang Zhu & John J. Horton)
Under Review
2. Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What Can We Learn from Homo Silicus? [\[pdf\]](#)
(with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas)
The Review of Economics and Statistics - Revise & Resubmit
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)
Current Directions in Psychological Science - Revise & Resubmit

In Proceedings

1. Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What Can We Learn from Homo Silicus?
(with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas)
ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation (EC) - 2024

In Progress

1. Better Generative AI, Better Prompts: The Ongoing Need for Prompt Engineering
(with Mohammed Alsobay, Eaman Jahani, Christos Nicolaides, Siddharth Suri, Hong-Yi TuYe, Joe Zhang, & David Holtz)
2. Discovering Data-Driven Nudges to Help Students Learn
(with Colin Camerer, Angela Duckworth, Marcos Gallo, & Sean Hu).

Invited Speaking Presentations

2024: Econometric Society Interdisciplinary Frontiers Conference on Economics and AI+ML (*upcoming*); NBER Digital Economics and Artificial Intelligence Summer Institute (*upcoming*); International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) (*upcoming*);¹ ZEW Conference on the Economics of ICT (*upcoming*); ACM Collective Intelligence 2024 (*upcoming*);¹ International Conference of the French Association of Experimental Economics (*upcoming*); Statistical Conference in E-Commerce Research (SCECR) (*upcoming*);¹ Wharton AI and the Future of Work Conference; International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences (IMBESS); MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy (IDE) Annual Conference; Microsoft Research AI, Cognition, and the Economy Workshop;

¹Coauthor presenting joint work

Measuring Development: AI, the Next Generation at the World Bank; American Physical Society's March Meeting¹

2023: Interactive Causal Learning Conference; MIT CSAIL'S FutureTech Research Project; Conference On Digital Experimentation (CODE) at MIT; Talking to Machines AI Workshop at Oxford University

Teaching

Teaching Fellow

API-101Z: Markets and Failures. Chris Avery (Harvard—MPP) Fall 2023, Fall 2024

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 Failures. Chris Avery (Harvard—MPP) Fall 2020

DPI-610: Big Data for Politics. Benjamin Schneer (Harvard—MPP, MPA, Undergrad) Spring 2020

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

Affiliations

MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, Research Team
Heterodox Academy, Member

Professional Service

Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE), *ACM-Collective Intelligence*, *International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS)*

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