

## **MANASWINI RAO**

### **EDUCATION**

2020 (*Expected*) Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley  
2010 Master in Public Policy (M.P.P.), University of California, Berkeley  
2004 Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science (B.E.), B.M.S. College of Engineering, India

### **FIELDS**

Development Economics, Political Economics, Applied Econometrics

### **WORKING PAPERS**

Local Economic Development and the Political Economy of Village Councils in India.

We examine the effect of caste identity of village council leaders in India on the choice of local policies using the quasi-random assignment of the leaders' position to specific caste groups within sub-districts. Overall, we find weak redistributive effects suggesting that choice of policies may only be a small component of the politician's objective function even at the lowest tiers of the political structure.

### **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

Judicial Institutions and Economic Development in India

This project aims to explore causal relationship between judicial frictions and economic outcomes using newly available micro-data on cases in Indian courts. We model judicial frictions along a number of dimensions, including annual speed of resolution, delays in trial processing beyond the stipulated time and probability of disposal in each period. Next, we merge these friction measures with sub-national level data on economic outcomes. To address the concerns of credible identification strategy, we exploit exogenous changes that affect judicial efficiency such as changes in judge strength through vacancies arising out of sudden death or accidental causes, roll-out of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and prior period legislations that either induce or reduce these frictions.

Irrigation Tanks and Collective Action: An Experimental Study.

(with Xavier Gine, *Aprajit Mahajan and Anup Malani*)

We seek to lay the groundwork for a field experiment to study the conditions under which local water bodies ("water tanks" or simply "tanks") can be successfully maintained following a one-time restoration by a centralized government agency.

Got (Good) Milk? Information, Enforcement and Social Networks in Indian Dairy Production.

(with *Arun Chandrasekhar, Emily Breza and Ashish Shenoy*)

We explore to address the current inefficiencies in the dairy sector through a pilot in one district in Karnataka by leveraging local institutions and community level monitoring systems.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

University of California, Berkeley (Graduate Student Instructor):

International Economic Development Policy (Masters Level), Economic Development (Senior Undergraduate Level), Macroeconomic Analysis (Intermediate Undergraduate Level), Economic History (Intermediate Undergraduate Level)

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (Teaching Assistant)  
Impact Evaluation for Public Policy Improvement (An Executive Education Program)  
Impact Evaluation Methods (Annual J-PAL/IPA Staff Training) – 2 years

### **SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

2017 ATAI Grant, US\$ 223,565, with Aprajit Mahajan, Xavier Gine and Anup Malani for “Mission Kakatiya: Impact Evaluation of Minor Irrigation Tank Rehabilitation in Telangana”  
2017 IGC Grant, GBP 50,000 with Aprajit Mahajan (PI) for “Judicial Institutions and Economic Development: Examining Micro-evidence from India”  
2015 Levin Family Fellowship 2015, US\$ 800, with Louis Peronas and Fiona Burlig  
2015 Maharaj Kaul Research Travel Grant 2015, US\$ 1000  
2014 J-PAL Post-Primary Education/Youth Initiative Pilot Grant, US\$ 10,000 with Bastien Michel and Bhavya Srinivasan  
2013-15 USAID DIV Award US\$99,632 with Arun Chandrasekhar, Emily Breza and Ashish Shenoy  
2011 Innovations for Poverty Action, Graduate Student Fund, US\$5,000 with Arun Chandrasekhar, Emily Breza and Ashish Shenoy  
2009-10 Berkeley International Office Graduate Student Fellowship; Jacob K. Javits Summer Fellowship

### **RELEVANT POSITIONS**

2014- Graduate Student Researcher (worked with Aprajit Mahajan, Supreet Kaur and Emily Breza, and Elisabeth Sadoulet and Alain de Janvry)  
2010-2014 Research Associate/Research Manager/Senior Research Manager, J-PAL South Asia.  
2009-10 Consultant, Aid for Trade, Asian Development Bank  
2006-08 Advocacy Associate, Janaagraha Center for Citizenship and Democracy, Bangalore, India  
2004 Software Engineer, Infosys Ltd

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Impact Evaluation of Population, Health and Nutrition Programs, New Delhi, India, 2013  
Presented “Experimental Design – Case Studies” at an impact evaluation conference organized by Public Health Foundation of India in March 2013

USAID “Saving Lives at Birth”, Washington D.C., USA, 2011,  
Represented project “Integrated Medical Information and Disease Surveillance in Primary Health Centres” investigated by J-PAL members Mr. Iqbal Dhaliwal and Prof. Rema Hanna as one of the 77 finalists for the Award

### **SKILLS**

Stata, R, Matlab, GIS (ArcInfo, Diva-GIS), Programming (C/C++, Java), LaTeX, ODK

### **LANGUAGES**

Proficient: English, Hindi  
Native: Kannada  
Basic: Tamil