

MANASWINI RAO

EDUCATION

2019 (*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

RELEVANT POSITIONS

2016- Graduate Student Researcher for Aprajit Mahajan
Spring 2017 Graduate Student Researcher for Supreet Kaur and Emily Breza
2014-2016 Graduate Student Researcher for Elisabeth Sadoulet and Alain de Janvry
2013-2014 Senior Research Manager, J-PAL South Asia.
2011- 2013 Research Manager, J-PAL South Asia.
2010-11 Research Associate, J-PAL South Asia, *Social Networks and Diffusion of Microfinance*, Banerjee, Chandrasekhar, Duflo and Jackson, 2013
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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2017 Teaching Assistant for Prof. Alain de Janvry and Prof. Bruce Wydick, UC Berkeley, AREC253 (Graduate course in Development Economics – Masters)
Fall 2016 Teaching Assistant for Prof. Aprajit Mahajan, UC Berkeley, Econ 171 (Undergraduate course in Development Economics)
2012 Teaching Assistant for Executive Education Program, Impact Evaluation for Public Policy Improvement, Bangkok, jointly organized by J-PAL, EPoD and ADB
2010-11 Teaching Assistant, Staff Training on Impact Evaluation Methods, J-PAL
2009-10 Teaching Assistant for Prof. Bradford DeLong, University of California, Berkeley, Econ 115 (Undergraduate course in Economic History).
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Steven A. Wood (Lecturer), University of California, Berkeley Econ 100B (Undergraduate course in Intermediate Macroeconomics)
2008-09 Teaching Assistant for Late. Prof. John M. Quigley, University of California, Berkeley, PP275 (Graduate course in Housing and Urban Economics).
Teaching Assistant for Prof Gerard Turley (Visiting Faculty), University of California, Berkeley, Econ 161 (Undergraduate course in Economics of Transition)

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”
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

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

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

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

SKILLS

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

LANGUAGES

Proficient: English, Hindi

Native: Kannada

Basic: Tamil