

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 (Primary), 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.

Mission Kakatiya: Impact Evaluation of Minor Irrigation Tank Rehabilitation in Telangana
(with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan and Anup Malani)

Mission Kakatiya project in Telangana, India, aims to rehabilitate a large number of small-scale irrigation reservoirs (referred to as "water tanks" or "tanks") throughout the state for local agricultural and ancillary uses. We propose to measure the impact of rehabilitated water tanks on local economic and environmental outcomes as well as to identify possible mechanisms. Within the same context, we seek to pilot a field experiment to characterize and improve the collective management of these newly restored local common pool resources by studying the interaction between the farmers in the command area of the tank and the local political institutions.

Irrigation Tanks and Collective Action: An Experimental Study.

(with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan and Anup Malani)

We study the conditions under which local water bodies ("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.

BOOK CHAPTERS

de Janvry, A, Rao, M, and Sadoulet, E (2017), Adjusting extension models to the ways farmers learn. In A. de Janvry, K. Macours, and E. Sadoulet (Eds.), *Learning for adopting: Technology adoption in developing country agriculture* (pp 71-83), Clermont-Ferrand, France: FERDI

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) over 2 years

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2018 | IRLE Graduate Student Research Award, US\$ 6000, with Vaishnavi Surendra for “Gender Wage Gap in Agricultural Labor Markets in Rural India” |
| 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

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| 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 |

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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