

<b>Contact Information</b>	manaswini.rao@gmail.com, manasrao@udel.edu <a href="http://manaswinirao.com">http://manaswinirao.com</a>
	<b>FIELDS:</b> Development Economics, Law and Econ, Political Economy (Organization and Institutional Economics), Agriculture and Natural Resource Economics
<b>Academic Employment</b>	University of Delaware, Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Dept. of Economics 08/2023 - UC San Diego, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. of Economics 07/2020 - 06/2023
<b>Affiliations</b>	Affiliated Faculty, GAP Initiative, Northeastern University July 2024 - Affiliated Faculty, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) May 2024 - Affiliated Faculty, UC San Diego 21st Century India Center July 2023 - Invited Researcher, J-PAL South Asia Dec 2021 - May 2024 Invited Researcher, The World Bank DIME Group March 2022 - Aug 2023
<b>Prior Education</b>	Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley 2020 Master of Public Policy, UC Berkeley 2010 B.Engineering (Comp. Sc.), Visveswaraya Technological Univ, India 2004
<b>Publications</b>	“Got (Clean) Milk?: Organization, Incentives, and Management in Indian Dairy Cooperatives” with Ashish Shenoy <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , Vol 212, Aug 2023, Pages 708-722 ( <a href="#">Open Access Version</a> ) AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0000700) <i>Coverage:</i> <a href="#">VoxDev</a>
	“Seeding the Seeds: Role of Social Structure in Agricultural Technology Diffusion” with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , Vol 236, Aug 2025, 107088, ISSN 0167-2681 AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0002157) <i>Coverage:</i> <a href="#">VoxDev</a> , <a href="#">Ideas for India</a>
<b>Book Chapters</b>	Rao, M., Court Efficiency and Business Outcomes: Measuring the Performance of District Courts, in Justice Frustrated: The Systemic Impact of Delays in Indian Courts, Bloomsbury India, Shruti Vidyasagar, Shruthi Naik, and Harish Narasappa (eds) (2020)
	de Janvry, A., Rao, M., Sadoulet, E. (2017) Learning for adopting: Technology adoption in developing country agriculture, Ferdi, 120 p., de Janvry, A., Macours K., Sadoulet, E. (eds) (2017)
<b>Working Papers</b>	“Front-line Courts as State Capacity: Evidence from India” ( <i>Submitted</i> ) <i>Coverage:</i> ( <a href="#">Ideas for India Blog-post</a> , <a href="#">LiveMint</a> , <a href="#">VoxDev</a> ).
	“Towns and Rural Land Inequality in India” with Prashant Bharadwaj and Juan Eberhard ( <i>Submitted</i> )

<b>Working Papers</b>	<p>“The Enforcement Bottleneck: Judicial Capacity and the Limits of Bankruptcy Reform” (<i>Submitted</i>)</p> <p>“Towards win-win: Evidence from commercial dispute resolution in India” w/ Umer Sohail, Sandhya Seetharaman, and Raghav Pandey</p> <p>“Whither Justice?: Judicial Capacity Constraints Worsens Trial and Litigants’ Outcomes”</p> <p>“Land inequality and occupational sorting in India” w/ Harrison Mitchell and Frances Lu</p> <p>“The Value of Decentralized Decision-Making: Lessons from an Agricultural Infrastructure Experiment” with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani <i>Pre-analysis plan filed with the AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0004336)</i>.</p> <p>“Mission Kakatiya: An At-Scale Evaluation of Rehabilitating Irrigation Infrastructure in India” with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani <i>Pre-analysis plan filed with the AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0001821)</i>.</p>								
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>	“Debt Recovery, Information Provision, and Legal Counseling: Experimental Evidence from Mumbai Courts” with Raghav Pandey <i>Full RCT ongoing</i>								
<b>Teaching</b>	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (with Calculus) Graduate Development Economics (PhD Field Course)								
<b>Graduate Advising (*Member)</b>	Nora Kenaway*, Umer Sohail*								
<b>Undergrad Advising</b>	Ryan Gilligan								
<b>Grants</b>	<table> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>IPA CPRI Grant \$ 75,000 (w/ Raghav Pandey)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>J-PAL Governance Initiative Multidisciplinary Grant \$ 29,978 (w/ Raghav Pandey); University of Delaware Lerner Grant \$ 4250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>Center for Effective Governance of Indian States \$ 30,000 (by Karthik Muralidharan)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>≤ 2022</td> <td>STEG PhD Research Grant £15,000 (w/ Frances Lu); J-PAL GI and K-CAI Grants \$100,000 and \$101,654; FID Grant €129,720 (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani), The World Bank Research Grant \$124,490; ATAI Top-up Grant \$49,207 (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani); The Jean O. Lanjouw Memorial Endowment (\$757); IRLE Graduate Student Award (w/ Vaishnavi Surendra, \$6000), The World Bank Proposal Development Grant (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani, \$30,000) ATAI Grant (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani, \$233,565), IGC Grant for Judicial Efficiency and Economic Outcomes (PI Advisor: Aprajit Mahajan, £50,000)</td> </tr> </table>	2025	IPA CPRI Grant \$ 75,000 (w/ Raghav Pandey)	2024	J-PAL Governance Initiative Multidisciplinary Grant \$ 29,978 (w/ Raghav Pandey); University of Delaware Lerner Grant \$ 4250	2023	Center for Effective Governance of Indian States \$ 30,000 (by Karthik Muralidharan)	≤ 2022	STEG PhD Research Grant £15,000 (w/ Frances Lu); J-PAL GI and K-CAI Grants \$100,000 and \$101,654; FID Grant €129,720 (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani), The World Bank Research Grant \$124,490; ATAI Top-up Grant \$49,207 (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani); The Jean O. Lanjouw Memorial Endowment (\$757); IRLE Graduate Student Award (w/ Vaishnavi Surendra, \$6000), The World Bank Proposal Development Grant (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani, \$30,000) ATAI Grant (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani, \$233,565), IGC Grant for Judicial Efficiency and Economic Outcomes (PI Advisor: Aprajit Mahajan, £50,000)
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<b>Older Grants</b>	$\leq 2020$	Levin Family Fellowship (w/ Fiona Burlig and Louis Preonas, \$ 800), Maharaj Kaul Research Travel Grant (\$ 1000); Post Primary Education Initiative Exploratory Grant (w/ Bastien Michel and Bhavya Srinivasan, \$ 10,000); USAID DIV Pilot Award, (w/ Emily Breza, Arun Chandrasekhar, and Ashish Shenoy, \$ 99,632)
<b>Academic Talks</b>	2026	CASI Political Econ Workshop (UPenn)
	2025	XI Economic Inequality Conference, Fordham University Economics Seminar, University of Delaware Economics Seminar, PEDL Early Career Researcher Workshop (Yale U), NEUDC (Tufts)
	2024	Econometric Society Asia Winter Meetings IIT-Delhi, IGIDR-Mumbai Seminar, William & Mary Economics Seminar, University of Delaware Economics Seminar, The World Bank Land Conference, AEA CSWEP CeMENT Workshop; NEUDC (Northeastern U), Yale YRISE Annual Conference, IFPRI AMD Seminar
	2023	University of Delaware Economics; University of Wisconsin AAE; Ohio State University AEDE; Ashoka University Economics; IIM-Bangalore Econ Area; Shiv Nadar University Economics; Krea University; Firms, Trade, and Development Conference (Yale ECG and the IGC); Yale YRISE Annual Conference
	2022	CGIAR SPIA Webinar; STEG Annual Conference; PacDev (USF); Oxford CSAE Poster Session; Urban Economics Asso. Europe Meeting (LSE); University of Kent (Econ Seminar); Advances in Micro Development Economics-Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; The World Bank ABCDE; NEUDC (Yale); Plaksha University; NYU-Abu Dhabi Economics; IIT-Kanpur Economics
	2021	ASSA Poster Session; PacDev (UC San Diego); Oxford CSAE Conference; University of Kent (Econ Seminar); NBER Org Econ Spring Meet (co-author presenting); UC Riverside (Applied Econ Seminar); NEUDC (Boston U); ISI-Delhi Conference
	$\leq 2020$	PacDev (UC Berkeley); SIOE (self organized session); UC San Diego (guest lecture); Advances in Micro Development Economics-Barcelona GSE; Webinar Series in Finance and Development; Virtual Law and Macro Conference (Yale); NBER Fall Development (lightning round), NEUDC 2019 (Northwestern U); J-PAL South Asia Annual Staff Meet 2017; Dept. of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu 2014; PHFI New Delhi 2013
<b>Refereeing</b>	<i>American Economic Review; American Economic Review-Insights; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economics of Education Review; Economic Modelling; Environment and Development Economics; International Review of Finance; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of European Economic Association; Journal of Law and Economics; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Political Economy: Micro; Journal of Public Economics; Rand Journal of Economics; Review of World Economics; Sustainable Futures; The Review of Economics and Statistics; The Review of Economic Studies; The Economic Journal; The Indian Economic Journal</i>	
<b>Grant Review</b>	<i>Berkeley Economists for Equity; National Science Foundation; J-PAL RFP Grants</i>	

<b>Service</b>	<i>University of Delaware Economics Seminar Organizer; University of Delaware Faculty Recruitment Committee Member, UCSD-Indian Economy Seminar Series Co-Organizer; AMIE Mentor 2023-24; NEUDC (reviewer), PACDEV (reviewer), Academic Mentor UC Berkeley UN-SDG Undergraduate Research Group Fall 2020; CEGA East Africa Social Science Translation Mentorship Program Spring 2019; Women in Economics (UC Berkeley); UC Berkeley ARE PhD Admissions Committee Student Member; UC Berkeley ARE Department Coffee Hour</i>
<b>Prior Employment</b>	The World Bank, Consultant; J-PAL South Asia, Senior Research Manager (position at the time of exit); The Asian Development Bank, Consultant; Janaagraha, Associate; Infosys Ltd, Software Engineer
<b>Languages</b>	English (proficient), Hindi (proficient), Kannada (native), Tamil (conversational), R (proficient), Stata (proficient), Python (Intermediate)
<b>Citizenship</b>	Indian Citizen (on US H1B)