2004

MANASWINI RAO

Contact manaswini.rao@gmail.com, manasrao@udel.edu http://manaswinirao.com

FIELDS: Development Economics, Law and Econ, Political Economy (Organization and

Institutional Economics), Agriculture and Natural Resource Economics

Academic Employment University of Delaware, Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Dept. of Economics 08/2023 - UC San Diego, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. of Economics 07/2020 - 06/2023

Affiliations Affiliated Faculty, GAP Initiative, Northeastern University July 2024 -

Affiliated Faculty, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Affiliated Faculty, UC San Diego 21st Century India Center

Invited Researcher, J-PAL South Asia

Dec 2021 - May 2024

Levited Researcher, The World Researcher, DIME Green, March 2022 Age 2023

Invited Researcher, The World Bank DIME Group March 2022 - Aug 2023

Prior Education

Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley

Master of Public Policy, UC Berkeley

2020

2010

B.Engineering (Comp. Sc.), Visveswaraya Technological Univ, India

Publications

"Got (Clean) Milk?: Organization, Incentives, and Management in Indian Dairy Cooperatives" with Ashish Shenoy *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Vol 212, Aug 2023, Pages 708-722* (Open Access Version) *AEA RCT Registry* (#AEARCTR-0000700) *Coverage:* VoxDev

"Seeding the Seeds: Role of Social Structure in Agricultural Technology Diffusion" with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Vol 236*, *Aug 2025*, *107088*, *ISSN 0167-2681 AEA RCT Registry* (#AEARCTR-0002157) *Coverage:* VoxDev, Ideas for India

Book Chapters 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)

Working Papers

"Front-line Courts as State Capacity: Evidence from India" (Submitted)

Coverage: (Ideas for India Blog-post, LiveMint, VoxDev).

"Towns and Rural Land Inequality in India" with Prashant Bharadwaj and Juan Eberhard (Submitted)

Working Papers

"Creditor Rights and Credit Allocation: Examining Bankruptcy Reforms from the Lens of Local Judicial Capacity"

"Towards win-win: Evidence from commercial dispute resolution in India" w/ Umer Sohail, Sandhya Seetharaman, and Raghav Pandey

"Whither Justice?: Judicial Capacity Constraints Worsens Trial and Litigants' Outcomes"

"Land inequality and rural structural transformation: Evidence from India" w/ Harrison Mitchell and Frances Lu

"The Value of Decentralized Decision-Making: Lessons from an Agricultural Infrastructure Experiment" with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani *Pre-analysis plan filed with the AEA RCT Registry* (#AEARCTR-0004336).

"Mission Kakatiya: An At-Scale Evaluation of Rehabilitating Irrigation Infrastructure in India" with Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani *Pre-analysis plan filed with the AEA RCT Registry* (#AEARCTR-0001821).

Ongoing Projects

"Debt Recovery, Information Provision, and Legal Counseling: Experimental Evidence from Mumbai Courts" with Raghav Pandey *Pilot ongoing*

Teaching

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (with Calculus) Graduate Development Economics (PhD Field Course)

Grants

- J-PAL Governance Initiative Multidisciplinary Grant \$ 29,978 (w/ Raghav Pandey); University of Delaware Lerner Grant \$ 4250
- Center for Effective Governance of Indian States \$ 30,000 (w/ 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)

Older Grants

 ≤ 2020

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), 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)

Academic Talks	2025	XI Economic Inequality Conference, Fordham University Economics Seminar (<i>scheduled</i>), University of Delaware Economics Seminar (<i>scheduled</i>)
	2024	Econometric Society Asia Winter Meetings IIT-Delhi, IGIDR-Mumbai, 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 Dept. 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 Department Seminar): NBER Org Econ Spring

University of Kent (Econ Department Seminar); NBER Org Econ Spring Meet (co-author presenting); UC Riverside (Applied Econ Seminar); NEUDC (Boston U); ISI-Delhi Conference < 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

Refereeing

American Economic Review; American Economic Review-Insights; Berkeley Economists for Equity (Grant Review); 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; National Science Foundation (Grant Review); Rand Journal of Economics; Review of World Economics; The Review of Economics and Statistics; The Review of Economic Studies; The Economic Journal; The Indian Economic Journal

Service

University of Delaware Economics Seminar Organizer; University of Delaware Faculty Recruitment Committee Member, UCSD-Indian Economy Seminar Series Co-Organizer; 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

Prior The World Bank, Consultant; J-PAL South Asia, Senior Research Manager (position at the **Employment**

time of exit); The Asian Development Bank, Consultant; Janaagraha, Associate; Infosys

Ltd, Software Engineer

Languages English (proficient), Hindi (proficient), Kannada (native), Tamil (conversational), R (profi-

cient), Stata (proficient), Python (Intermediate)

Citizenship Indian Citizen (on US H1B)