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| Contact Information | 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) 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 |
| Prior Education | 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 |
| Publications | “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 (Open Access Version) <i>AEA RCT Registry</i> (#AEARCTR-0000700) <i>Coverage:</i> VoxDev “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 <i>AEA RCT Registry</i> (#AEARCTR-0002157) <i>Coverage:</i> 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” (<i>Submitted</i>) <i>Coverage:</i> (Ideas for India Blog-post , LiveMint , VoxDev). “Towns and Rural Land Inequality in India” with Prashant Bharadwaj and Juan Eberhard (<i>Submitted</i>) |

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| 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 <i>Pre-analysis plan filed with the AEA RCT Registry</i> (#AEARCTR-0004336). | |
| Ongoing Projects | “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</i> (#AEARCTR-0001821). | |
| | “Debt Recovery, Information Provision, and Legal Counseling: Experimental Evidence from Mumbai Courts” with Raghav Pandey <i>Pilot ongoing</i> | |
| Teaching | Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (with Calculus) Graduate Development Economics (PhD Field Course) | |
| Advising (*Member) | Nora Kenaway*, Umer Sohail* | |
| Grants | 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) |
| | 2021 | J-PAL GI and K-CAI Grants \$100,000 and \$101,654; FID Grant €129,720 (w/ Xavier Gine, Aprajit Mahajan, Anup Malani) |

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| 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, 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 |
| | ≤ 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 |

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| Refereeing | <i>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</i> |
| Service | <i>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</i> |
| Prior Employment | 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 |
| Languages | English (proficient), Hindi (proficient), Kannada (native), Tamil (conversational), R (proficient), Stata (proficient), Python (Intermediate) |
| Citizenship | Indian Citizen (on US H1B) |