

Benjamin S. Manning

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Management Science, Information Technology

2022 - Present

S.M. in Management Research

2022 - Present

Harvard University

M.P.P. Social & Economic Policy

2019 - 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

B.A. Mathematics

2013 - 2017

Working Papers

1. Automated Social Science: A Structural Causal Model-Based Approach (with John J. Horton & Kehang Zhu). *Working Paper*. [\[pdf\]](#)
2. Large Language Models as Simulated Economic Agents: What Can Learn from Homo Silicus? (with John J. Horton & Apostolos Filippas). *R&R at The Review of Economics and Statistics*. [\[pdf\]](#)
3. Effect Size Magnification: No Variable is as Important as the One You're Thinking About—While You're Thinking About It (with Linnea Gandhi & Angela Duckworth). *Under review*.

Research in Progress

1. Early Experimental Evidence on the Behavioral Dynamics of Prompt Engineering (with Mohammed Alsobay, Eaman Jahani, Christos Nicolaides, Siddharth Suri, Hong-Yi TuYe, Joe Zhang, and David Holtz)
2. Discovering Data-Driven Nudges to Help Students Learn (with Colin Camerer, Angela Duckworth, Marcos Gallo, & Sean Hu).

Invited Presentations

2024: ZEW Conference on the Economics of ICT; Statistical Conference in E-Commerce Research (SCECR);¹ Wharton AI and the Future of Work Conference; MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy (IDE) Annual Conference; Microsoft Research AI, Cognition, and the Economy Workshop; Measuring Development: AI, the Next Generation at the World Bank; American Physical Society's March Meeting¹

2023: Interactive Causal Learning Conference; MIT CSAIL'S FutureTech Research Project; Conference On Digital Experimentation (CODE) at MIT; Talking to Machines AI Workshop at Oxford University

Teaching

Teaching Fellow

API-101Z: Markets and Failures. Chris Avery (Harvard—MPP)

Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant

¹Coauthor presenting joint work

15.572: Analytics Lab. Sinan Aral & Abdullah Almaatouq (MIT—MBA, MBA)	Summer 2023
OIDD-7050: Leading with Grit. Angela Duckworth (Penn—MBA)	Spring 2022
PSYCH-399: Research Seminar. Angela Duckworth (Penn—Undergrad)	Fall 2021, Spring 2022
API-500: Applied Intensive Policy Seminar. Joe Aldy & Jack Donahue (Harvard—MPP)	Spring 2021
API-202Z: Econometrics II. Teddy Svoronos (Harvard—MPP)	Spring 2021
DPI-610: Big Data for Politics. Benjamin Schneer (Harvard—MPP, Undergrad)	Spring 2020

Professional Experience

- **Research Assistant**, John Horton (MIT) 2023 - 2024
- **Research Assistant**, Angela Duckworth (Penn) 2021 - 2022
- **Research Assistant**, Jon Rogowski (University of Chicago) 2020 - 2022
- **Research Assistant**, Sydney Finkelstein (Dartmouth) 2018 - 2019
- **High School Math Teacher**, Phetpittayakom School, Thailand 2017 - 2018
- **Execution Trading Intern**, Optiver, Chicago 2016

Honors & Awards

MIT Sloan PhD Fellowship (~ \$250,000)	2022 – Present
Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship (\$6,500)	2019 & 2022
College Honors—Cumulative Undergraduate GPA Award	2017
Order of Omega Honor Society	2016

Affiliations

MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, Research Team
Heterodox Academy, Member

Professional Service

Conference on Digital Experimentation (CODE), *ACM-Collective Intelligence*

Doctoral Coursework

Economics

Microeconomic Theory, Game Theory & Information Economics, Analytic Frameworks for Policy, Experimental Economics, Economics of Information & Information Technology

Statistics & Econometrics

Estimation and Inference for Linear Causal and Structural Models, Statistical Methods in Economics, Econometrics, Design and Analysis of Experiments

Computer Science

Machine Learning, Discrete Math & Proofs for Computer Science, Applied Network Theory Analysis

References

John Horton - Associate Professor of Information Technologies - MIT
Angela Duckworth - Professor of Psychology - Penn
Christopher Avery - Professor of Public Policy - Harvard
Colin Camerer - Professor of Behavioral Economics - CalTech
Sydney Finkelstein - Professor Of Management - Dartmouth
Jon Rogowski - Professor of Political Science - University of Chicago