
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Dayanand S. Manoli

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: DSMANOLI

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	BA	06/2002	Economics
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	MA	06/2004	Economics
University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA	PhD	05/2008	Economics

A. Personal Statement

I am a public finance economist, and my research has generally focused on the areas of social security and income tax policy. Given my research interests, I have been most closely aligned with the following primary research areas within the PRC: Demography: Family Demography and Intergenerational Relationships and Demography: Education, Work, and Inequality. Over the next 5 years, I expect to continue my research in public finance and focus on the long-term impacts of employment training and education programs on household formation, household earnings, disability and aging outcomes. Participating in aging workshops and seminars at the PRC has been helpful in the past, and I hope to present future research in these arenas as well. I also hope to continue to benefit from the small grants through the PRC that have enabled me to start pilot programs that have led to larger-scale field experiments. Because I expect to continue setting up pilot experiments to develop further field experiments with government agencies, these small grants will be very helpful for future research.

B. Positions and Honors**Positions and Employment**

2008-2012 Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
2012-present Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
2010-present Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA
2008-present Adjunct Affiliate, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA
2016-present Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Affiliate

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

Member, American Economic Association

Honors

2002-2003 Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago, IL
2005 Burch Center Continuing Student Fellowship
2005 Burch Center Grant (with Saurabh Bhargava)
2006 Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, CA
2008 Public Policy Research Award, University of California, Berkeley, CA
2010-2011 National Bureau of Economic Research Aging Fellowship
2012 Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review
2013 Excellence in Refereeing Award, Journal of Public Economics

C. Contributions to Science

1. Some of my research focuses on unravelling the puzzle of incomplete take-up of tax benefits. In some recent work, I use a field-experiment conducted in collaboration with the IRS to examine response rates to different taxpayer notifications. Specifically, I test the role of program information (regarding benefits, costs, and rules), informational complexity, and stigma on response to experimental mailings notifying 35,050 tax-filing individuals who were unresponsive to an initial mailed reminder of \$26m in unclaimed EITC benefits.

This targeted information intervention revealed that individuals are most responsive to mailings that simplified information and that displayed the magnitude of potential benefits. Overall, the mere receipt of the experimental second mailing induced a take-up rate of 0.22. Our results suggest that the tested interventions, if deployed to all filing non-claimants, could reduce incomplete EITC take-up from 25% to 22%.

“Psychological Frictions and Incomplete Take-up of Social Benefits: Evidence from an IRS Fields Experiment,” (with Saurabh Bhargava), *American Economic Review*

2. Another focus of my research is investigating the behavioral responses to public policy incentives, specifically in context of retirement decisions. One of my papers examine how long individuals are willing to delay their retirements in response to anticipated increases in retirement benefits. This paper presents new evidence on the effects of retirement benefits on labor force participation decisions. The analysis is based on a mandated rule for employer-provided retirement benefits in Austria that creates discontinuities in the incentives for workers to delay retirement. We present graphical evidence on labor supply responses and present a conceptual framework that accounts for frictions and for the dynamic incentive structure. Using bunching methods, we estimate a semi-elasticity of participation which ranges from 0.1 to 0.3 and is highest for incentives targeted at a delay in retirement by 6 to 9 months.

“Nonparametric Evidence on the Effects of Financial Incentives on Retirement Decisions,” (with Andrea Weber), *NBER Working Paper 17320*, forthcoming *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

In another research paper on retirement and social security, I have examined how the Early Retirement Age affects individuals' retirement decisions. More specifically, this paper presents novel quasi-experimental evidence on the effects of increasing the Early Retirement Age (ERA) on older workers' retirement decisions. The analysis is based on social security reforms in Austria in 2000 and 2004, and administrative data allows us to distinguish between pension claims and job exits. Using a Regression Kink Design, we estimate that, within a birth cohort, a 1.0-year increase in the ERA leads to a 0.4-year increase in the average job exiting age and a 0.5-year increase in the average pension claiming age. When the ERA increases, many older workers remain in their jobs longer.

“The Effects of the Early Retirement Age on Retirement Decisions,” (with Andrea Weber), *NBER Working Paper 22561*.

3. Another paper of mine studies the effect of liquidity generated through tax-refunds on college enrollment decisions. In particular, we estimate causal effects of tax refunds (cash-on-hand) on college enrollment using population-level administrative data from United States income tax returns. We implement two separate research designs based on tax refunds from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). First, we exploit a nonlinearity in the tax refund schedule that results from the kink point between the phase-in and maximum credit portions of the schedule. Second, we use policy expansions in the EITC phase-out region. Both approaches yield similar results that suggest tax refunds received in the spring of the high school senior year have meaningful effects on college enrollment.

“Cash-on-Hand and College Enrollment: Evidence from Population Tax Data and Policy Nonlinearities,” (with Nick Turner), *NBER Working Paper 19836*.

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

UTA15-001179 (D. Manoli, PI)

10/01/15-12/31/17

Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Developing Behavioral Insights to Transform IRS Procedures and Communications to Taxpayers

This project aims to develop procedures and administrative data infrastructure within the IRS for aggregated and individual-level data analysis to improve tax administration.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Designing large-scale field experiments, data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of research to academic and policy-practitioner audiences

Laura and John Arnold Foundation

01/01/15-12/31/17

Using Administrative, Population-Level Tax Data for Public Database Development, Policy-Relevant Research, & Procedural Improvement

This project aims to develop large-scale field experiments conducted by the IRS to improve taxpayer compliance and overall tax administration.

Role: Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Administrative data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of research to academic and policy-practitioner audiences

Completed Research Support

SSA project, # NB15-08 (D. Manoli, PI)

9/30/15-9/29/16

NBER Retirement Research Center

The Effects of Increasing the Early Retirement Age on Individual Retirement Decisions

This project focused on presenting quasi-experimental evidence on the effects of increasing the Early Retirement Age (ERA) on older workers' retirement decisions.

Role: Project Leader

Responsibilities: Data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of research to academic and policy-practitioner audiences

SSA project, # NB15-02 (D. Manoli, PI)

9/30/15-9/29/16

NBER Disability Research Center

Household Composition, Earned Income Tax Credit Benefits and Explaining Spatial Variation in Disability Benefit Claiming

This project funded by NBER to further their goal to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the health and economic implications of disability and disability policy.

Role: Project Leader

Responsibilities: Data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of research to academic and policy-practitioner audiences

SSA project, # NB14-06 (D. Manoli, PI)

9/30/14-9/29/15

NBER Retirement Research Center

Wealth Dynamics During Retirement: Evidence from Sweden

This project documented the wealth dynamics of retirees in Sweden, focusing on periods surrounding changes in household composition, due to divorce or spousal death.

Role: Project Leader

Responsibilities: Data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of research to academic and policy-practitioner audiences

R01AG030824 (A. Kapteyn, PI)

09/15/07-06/30/13

National Institute on Aging

Robust Integration Modeling of Health, Wealth, and Disability

Acknowledging that currently no single model can provide a fully satisfactory description of the interrelation between health, disability, wealth, family structure, and institutions, we propose to consider three different models: (1) A dynamic programming structural model; (2) A continuous time structural model; (3) A reduced form Markov type model.

Role: Co-Investigator

Responsibilities: Model development, manuscript preparation