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The Creative Mind in Econometrics: Studies in Celebration of Robert Basmann's 90th Year on Causation, Identification and Structural Equation Estimation

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Introduction

The creative breadth of Robert Basmann's work in the field of economics and econometrics is remarkable. Professor Basmann's path coincided with that of several other giants (Dale Jorgenson, Denis Sargan and Hans Theil immediately come to mind) in that Professor Basmann began working in economic theory early in his career, became a preeminent and prolific theoretical econometrician, and then spent significant energy on questions of economic inequality in later stages. Professor Basmann's path was different than the others in that Professor Basmann also took up the issue of experimental economics in the middle of his intellectual journey.

Professor Basmann has done pioneering work in the estimation and identification of simultaneous equation systems, the determination of exact finite sampling distributions, the problem of observational equivalence in causality testing in econometrics, the introduction of animals to analyze consumer behavior in the field of experimental economics, endogenous preference formation and consumer demand, and the measurement of inequality, to name just some. His work influenced (and continues to influence) many of the most noted econometricians of the past forty years. Professor Basmann remains active to this day, in his early nineties.

The papers in this volume share a common core. The studies in this volume exemplify Professor Basmann's approach to utilizing econometric statistics to attack the problem of observational equivalence in causation, identification and

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