Sachintha Fernando

CONTACT Information

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CURRENT POSITIONS

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

2021-present

• Research and teaching assistant/PhD Student at the Chair of Econometrics and Empirical Economic Research

Verité research, Sri Lanka.

2020-present

• Affiliated Researcher

EDUCATION

Masters in Economics, Uppsala University, Sweden.

2017

Bachelors in Business Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2014

Exchange semester, La Trobe University Melbourne, Australia.

2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Economics, Climate Change, Applied Econometrics, Policy Evaluations

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Country-level and sectoral impacts of carbon taxes on carbon emissions: Empirical Evidence from Finland (with Christoph Wunder).
- Do natural disasters affect worries about climate change (with Katharina Kolb and Christoph Wunder).
- The environmental effectiveness of Luxembourg's free public transportation policy (with Tobias Eibinger)

Conferences

- Environmental protection and sustainability forum, Sept 2022, Graz.
- SOEP conference, June 2022, Berlin.
- Bamberg-Halle-Jena-Leipzig workshop on Empirical Micro and Applied Econometrics, June 2022, online
- Well-being conference, May 2022, Luxembourg.
- 9th CGDE doctoral workshop, March 2022, online
- Bamberg-Halle-Jena-Leipzig workshop on Empirical Micro and Applied Econometrics, Dec 2021, online
- 5th conference of econometric models of climate change, Aug 2021, online.
- First international research conference on carbon pricing, Feb 2019, New Delhi.
- FSR annual conference on the economic assessment of European climate policies, Nov 2018, Florence.

TEACHING

Teaching assistant at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg for:

- Statistics I (Bachelor level) SS 2021
- Statistics II (Bachelor level) WS 2021/22, WS 2022/23
- \bullet Introductory econometrics (Bachelor level) SS 2022
- \bullet Applied microeconometrics (Master level) WS 2022/23
- Causal Inference (Master level) SS 2023

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Reducing the gap in understanding Sri Lanka's gender gap. Verité Research Insight, March 2021
- 2. The gap between policy and practice: A review of the data dissemination practices of Sri Lanka's department of census and statistics. *Verité Research Policy Note*, Feb 2021
- 3. The environmental effectiveness of carbon taxes: A comparative case study of the Nordic experience. World bank working paper series, Nov 2019
- 4. Natural disaster insurance coverage: Solving the lethargy of language policy will help SMEs insland-wide. Verité Research Policy Note, April 2018
- 5. Sri Lanka's economic competitiveness: a microcosm of its politics?. Verité Research Insight, March 2018

Work Experience

• Team Leader Economics, Verité Research, Sri Lanka Verité Research is an interdisciplinary think tank based in Sri Lanka.

2017 - 2020

Research role:

- Conducting quantitative and qualitative research on economic and social issues in Sri Lanka (Designing surveys, coding, analysis of survey and administrative data)
- $\circ~$ Producing research and analytical input for publications, advisory briefings and presentations
- Reviewing and editing the team's research output (research briefs, policy notes, reports)

Managerial role:

- o Project management overall management and supervision of team's projects
- Responsible for the final delivery of economic research projects for clients which include government, bilateral, and multilateral lending agencies
- Team management responsible for recruitment, working with team members to ensure growth in skill-sets, conducting performance evaluations, managing budget for team costs, and reporting on team performance
- Client Management liaising with clients, such as USAID, UNICEF, UNDP, ECORYS and regular reporting on projects
- $\circ~$ Business Development developing proposals and concept notes to bid for grants on economics-related research
- Strategic Direction guiding the economic team in line with an adopted annual strategy and achieving transformative impact through research on economic issues in the country

• Senior Executive Sustainability, John Keells Holdings , Sri Lanka 2013-2015

- Responsible for implementing and maintaining sustainability standards for the leisure inbound sector
- Conducted sustainability and environmental audits with vendors and auxiliary suppliers
- Responsible for reporting and maintaining the sector's compliance with Global Reporting Initiative's indicators
- $\circ~$ Ensured implementation and maintenance of the sector's ISO 9001 QMS and ISO 14001 EMS certifications, Carbon Neutral certification, and TourCert responsible tourism standards

Honors and Awards

- *Uppsala University IPK full tuition scholarship* for the academic years 2015/16 and 2016/17-to follow the master's programme in Economics.
- C.T.C Gold medal for organisational behaviour, University of Colombo 2013
- Awarded Australian Department of Education, Employment and Work Relations scholarship to study one semester abroad at La Trobe University Australia, 2011.
- Deans commendation for Academic Excellence 2011, La Trobe University Australia.
- La Trobe Bronze Award, for volunteering in the community 2011.
- Employee of the year, John Keells Leisure Inbound Sector, 2014.
- CIMA Global Business Challenge 2013 Country Champions, represented Sri Lanka at the global finals held in South Africa.
- Zonta Jane M Klausmen Women in Business Scholarship 2013, for demonstrating outstanding potential in the field of business.

OTHER WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- Data Science: R Basics, (Harvardx) edX, 2021
- Evaluating Social Programs, (MITx) edX, 2020
- International Visitors Leadership Program on Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative, organized and sponsored by the US State Departments (Washington DC, San Francisco, De Moines, New York), 2019.
- 11th South Asian Programme on Computable General Equilibrium Modelling, Pokhara Nepal, organized by the South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment, 2018.

SERVICE

Member of the admission committee for the Masters in Economics: Data Science and Policy at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg | April 2022 - present

Volunteer mentor at Malengo | Oct 2022 - present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Computer skills: Stata, R, LATEX, Microsoft office
- Languages: Sinhalese (fluent), English (fluent), German (A2)

References

Prof. Dr. Christoph Wunder

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Dr. Nishan De Mel

Executive Director, Verite Research

E-mail: director@veriteresearch.org