

ASHANI AMARASINGHE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office 562
A02 - Social Sciences Building
University of Sydney
NSW 2006

Email: ashani.amarasinghe@sydney.edu.au
Personal Website: ashaniamarasinghe.github.io
Twitter: [@ashaniamar](https://twitter.com/ashaniamar)

CURRENT POSITIONS

Assistant Professor (Lecturer) <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
Adjunct Research Fellow <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
Non-Resident Fellow <i>Center for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present

PAST POSITIONS

Research Fellow <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2020 - June 2022
Teaching Associate <i>Department of Economics, Monash University, Australia</i>	2016 - 2020
Visiting Lecturer <i>University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</i>	2013 - 2014

EDUCATION

Monash University, Australia Ph.D (Economics) Advisors: Professor Paul Raschky, Professor Yves Zenou	2016 - 2020
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka Bachelor of Arts (Economics) First Class Honours	2007 - 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Amarasinghe, A. (2023). “Public Sentiments in Times of Terror”, *Journal of Development Economics* 162, Article No. 103058. [WP version](#)

Amarasinghe, A. (2022). “Diverting Domestic Turmoil,” *Journal of Public Economics* 208, Article No. 104608. [WP version](#)

WORKING PAPERS

[Conflicts in Spatial Networks](#) CEPR DP No. 14300 with Paul Raschky, Yves Zenou and Junjie Zhou
(Reject and Resubmit at *Quantitative Economics*)

[Key Players in Economic Development](#) *IZA DP No. 13071* with Roland Hodler, Paul Raschky and Yves Zenou

[Competing for Attention: The Effect of Talk Radio on Elections and Political Polarization in the US](#) *SoDa Labs Working Paper No.2022-02* with Paul Raschky

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Quantifying Government Behaviour through Text Analysis

Public response to resource windfalls, *with Kathryn Baragwanath*

Voting and violence, *with Pushkar Maitra*

Perceived Racism and Labor Supply Decisions, *with David Kreitmeir and Paul Raschky*

Geography, History and the Persistence of Political Attitudes, *with Paul Raschky and Miethy Zaman*

The Diffusion of the Internet, *with Klaus Ackermann, Simon Angus and Paul Raschky*

CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

2023 - Western Economic Association International Conference - University of Melbourne

2022 - Sydney Development Economics Group Workshop, Australian National University*, Australian Political Economy Network (APEN) Workshop - University of Queensland, ASREC Conference, Melbourne Institute - University of Melbourne*, University of Sydney (×2)

2021 - Deakin University, Workshop on Natural Experiments in History, Australasian Development Economics Workshop, Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society, Meeting of the European Public Choice Society

2020 - Applied Young Economist Webinar (AYEW), Oz Virtual Economics Research Seminar (OVERS), Brown Bag Seminar - Monash University

2019 - Monash Business School Doctoral Colloquium, Conflict and Economic Development Workshop - Deakin University, Australian Conference of Economists, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - University of Western Australia

2018 - Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of African Economies - University of Oxford

2017 - Annual Australasian Public Choice Conference - Deakin University, 30th PhD Conference in Economics and Business - University of Melbourne, Summer School in Development Economics - Italian Development Economists Association, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - University of New South Wales

**Invited Seminar*

TEACHING

School of Economics, University of Sydney

2023 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics: Conflict and Economic Development (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

2023 - ECOS3020 Economics of Political Institutions, Development and Culture (Instructor)

2022 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics: Conflict and Economic Development (Instructor)

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

2022 - *to date* : Co-organizer - [Sydney Development Economics Group](#)
2020 - *to date* : Founder and Co-organizer - [Applied Young Economist Webinar](#)
2021 - 2022 : Member of the Leadership Board - SoDa Laboratories
2020 - 2022 : Organizer - [SoDa Labs Webinar](#)
2019 - 2022 : Co-organizer - SoDa Labs Reading Group
2017 - 2018: Co-organizer - PhD Seminar Series, Department of Economics - Monash University

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2023 - Monash-Warwick Alliance, “Applied Young Economist Webinar Series” (AUD 8,000 & GBP 4,000), with Paul Raschky, Sascha Becker, Ivan Yotzov and Patrick Healy
2022-2025 - Research start up fund, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Economics, University of Sydney (AUD 15,000 per year)
2021 - Monash Business School ECR Research Grant Scheme, “Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis” (AUD 10,000)
2021 - Monash Business School COVID-19 Disrupted Research Grant Scheme (AUD 10,000), with Paul Raschky
2021 - Monash-Warwick Alliance Connections Fund, “Applied Young Economist Webinar Series” (AUD 4,000 & GBP 2,000), with Paul Raschky, Sascha Becker and Ivan Yotzov
2020 - “Purple Letter” for outstanding teaching performance - Monash University
2019 / 2017 - Australasian Development Economics Workshop Travel Grant
2017 - Monash University CDES Competitive Travel Grant
2016 - Australia Post-graduate Award/ Research Training Program Scholarship
2011 - Professor of Economics Gold Medal for best performance - University of Colombo
2008 - Faculty of Arts Scholarship for best performance - University of Colombo

REFEREEING ACTIVITY

Journals: Economic Modelling, Empirica, Journal of Asian Economics
Conferences: Reviewer and Discussant at Monash University’s 2021 Doctoral Colloquium, Panel Member for selecting the best PhD paper at 2021 Australasian Development Economics Workshop

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata, ArcGIS, Matlab, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

HNB Assurance PLC, Sri Lanka
Investments & Fund Management

2010 - 2015

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Sinhalese (native)

CITIZENSHIP

Australian and Sri Lankan

REFERENCES

Professor Paul Raschky

Department of Economics

Monash University

Australia

paul.raschky@monash.edu

Professor Yves Zenou

Department of Economics

Monash University

Australia

yves.zenou@monash.edu

Professor Sascha Becker

Department of Economics

Monash University

Australia

sascha.becker@monash.edu