

# ASHANI AMARASINGHE

ashani.amarasinghe@monash.edu

[ashaniamarasinghe.github.io](https://ashaniamarasinghe.github.io)

## EDUCATION

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**Monash University, Australia**

2016 - 2020

Ph.D (Economics)

Department of Economics

*Thesis Title: Essays on Economic Shocks in Networks*

Advisors: Professor Paul Raschky, Professor Yves Zenou

**University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

2007 - 2011

Bachelor of Arts (Economics) First Class Honours

*Top of the Class*

Department of Economics

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia**

2020 - Present

*Research Fellow*

**Monash University, Australia**

2016 - Present

*Teaching Associate*

**University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

2013 - 2014

*Visiting Lecturer*

## PUBLICATIONS

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

## WORKING PAPERS

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[Public Sentiments in Times of Terror](#) *SoDa Labs Working Paper No.2021-08* (**Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Development Economics***)

[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 (*Under Review*)

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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Quantifying Government Behaviour through Text Analysis

Competing for Attention: The Effect of Talk Radio on Political Polarization, *with Paul Raschky*

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*

## PRESENTATIONS

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2022 - University of Sydney, Melbourne Institute - University of Melbourne, ASREC Conference

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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2021 - *to date* : Member of the Leadership Board - SoDa Laboratories

2020 - *to date* : Founder and Co-organizer - [Applied Young Economist Webinar](#)

2020 - *to date* : Organizer - [SoDa Labs Webinar](#)

2019 - *to date* : Co-organizer - SoDa Labs Reading Group

2017 - 2018: Co-organizer - PhD Seminar Series, Department of Economics - Monash University

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

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2021 - Monash Business School ECR Research Grant Scheme, “Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis” (AUD 9,347)

2021 - Monash Business School COVID-19 Disrupted Research Grant Scheme (AUD 9,962), 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 - Australasian Development Economics Workshop Travel Grant

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

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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

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Stata, ArcGIS, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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**HNB Assurance PLC, Sri Lanka**

2010 - 2015

*Investments & Fund Management*

## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent), Sinhalese (native)

## CITIZENSHIP

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Australian and Sri Lankan

## REFERENCES

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**Professor Paul Raschky**

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Monash University  
Australia  
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**Professor Yves Zenou**

Department of Economics  
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**Professor Sascha Becker**

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