

# ASHANI AMARASINGHE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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NSW 2006

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Twitter: [@ashaniamar](https://twitter.com/ashaniamar)

## CURRENT POSITIONS

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<b>Assistant Professor (Lecturer)</b> <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Adjunct Research Fellow</b> <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Non-Resident Fellow</b> <i>Center for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Member</b> <i>Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	May 2023 - Present
<b>Social Media Editor</b> <i>Australian Economic Papers</i>	Aug 2023 - Present

## PAST POSITIONS

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

## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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Amarasinghe, A. (2023). “Public Sentiment 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

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[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  
(**Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization***)

[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

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Public response to resource windfalls, *with Kathryn Baragwanath*

Partisan Alignment and Insurgency: Evidence from the Indian Red-corridor, *with Pushkar Maitra and Yuchen Zhong*

Climate change and domestic discontent

Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis

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

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

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2023 - Western Economic Association International Conference - University of Melbourne, Resilient Democracy Lab Workshop - UNSW\*, Sydney Development Economics Group Workshop - UNSW, Semi-Periodic Agricultural Development Economics Research Symposium - University of Sydney\*, Workshop on Big Data in Social Science - University of Sydney\*, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - Macquarie University, Econometric Society Australasia Meeting - UNSW

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 - Monash University, 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 - UNSW

*\*Invited Seminar*

## TEACHING

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*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)

## THESIS SUPERVISION

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*School of Economics, University of Sydney*

2023 - Sura Majeed (Honours)

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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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 : Social Media Coordinator - 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

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2023 - Competitive “Research Incubator” Program for early career researchers, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Economics, University of Sydney

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 competitive 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

## REFEREING ACTIVITY

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**Journals:** Economic Modelling, Empirica, Journal of Asian Economics, German Economic Review

**Conferences:** Member of Program Committee (Political Economy) for the 2023 Australasian Meeting of the Econometric Society; 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, R, ArcGIS, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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**HNB Assurance PLC, Sri Lanka**  
*Investments & Fund Management*

2010 - 2015

## 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**  
Department of Economics  
Monash University  
Australia  
paul.raschky@monash.edu

**Professor Yves Zenou**  
Department of Economics  
Monash University  
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**Professor Sascha Becker**  
Department of Economics  
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