

ASHANI AMARASINGHE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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University of Sydney, NSW 2006

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer (Tenured Assistant Professor)
School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia

Jan 2025 -

Lecturer (Assistant Professor)
School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia

July 2022 - Dec 2024

Associate Editor
Australian Economic Papers

July 2024 - Present

Research Fellow
SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia

July 2020 - June 2022

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

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

Amarasinghe, A., Hodler, R., Raschky, P. and Y. Zenou. (2024) “Key Players in Economic Development”, *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization* 223, 40–56. [WP version](#)

Amarasinghe, A., Raschky, P. Zenou, Y. and J. Zhou (2026) “How Natural Disasters Spread Conflict”, *European Economic Review* 181, Article No. 105194. [WP version](#)

WORKING PAPERS

[Partisan Alignment, Insurgency and Public Safety: Evidence from the Indian Red-corridor](#) with Pushkar Maitra (Monash University) and Yuchen Zhong (University of Melbourne) (*Revise and resubmit at Economic Development and Cultural Change*)

[Competing for Attention: The Effect of Talk Radio on US Politics](#) with Paul Raschky (Monash University)

[Getting along or getting ahead? The domestic roots of status-seeking in international relations](#) with Kathryn Baragwanath (University of Melbourne) [In the media](#)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Long-term consequences of armed conflict on women's agency: Evidence from the Sri Lankan Civil War, with Nidhiya Menon (Brandeis University), Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Tech University) and Kompal Sinha (Macquarie University)

Mapping violence perceptions through YouTube comments: A new approach to real-time conflict monitoring, with Sascha Nanlohy (IEP), Thomas Morgan (IEP), David Hammond (IEP), Yashdeep Dahiya (University of Sydney) and Francesco Bailo (University of Sydney)

Missions Misaligned: Colonial Legacies of Climate Induced Conflict in Africa, with David Ubilava (University of Sydney) and Jordi Vidal-Robert (University of Sydney)

Judiciary and conflict, with Siddharth George (National University of Singapore) and Jingyuan Guo (National University of Singapore)

Geography, history and the persistence of political attitudes, with Paul Raschky (Monash University) and Christian Duben (Monash University)

Roads and riots, with Josh Merfeld (KDI School of Public Policy and Management) and David Ubilava (University of Sydney)

Climate politics

Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis

GRANTS

2025 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme "Australasian Public Choice Conference", with Kadir Atalay

2024-2026 - Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant DP240101563 "Political Conflict, Inefficient Markets, and Food Crises", with David Ubilava, Justin Hastings and Andrey Vasnev

2024, 2025 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme "Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop", with David Ubilava

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme "Australian Political Economy Network Workshop", with Andrew Wait

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme "Semi-Periodic Agricultural and Development Economics Research Symposium", with David Ubilava

2023 - Monash-Warwick Alliance, "Applied Young Economist Webinar Series", 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

2021 - Monash Business School competitive ECR Research Grant Scheme, "Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis"

2021 - Monash Business School COVID-19 Disrupted Research Grant Scheme, with Paul Raschky

2021 - Monash-Warwick Alliance Connections Fund, "Applied Young Economist Webinar Series", with Paul Raschky, Sascha Becker and Ivan Yotzov

2019 / 2017 - Australasian Development Economics Workshop Travel Grant

2017 - Monash University CDES Competitive Travel Grant

2016 - Australia Post-graduate Award/ Research Training Program Scholarship

AWARDS

- 2024 - Research Collaboration Award, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney (with David Ubilava, Justin Hastings and Andrey Vasnev)
- 2024 - Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney
- 2023 - Competitive “Research Incubator” Program for early career researchers, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney
- 2020 - “Purple Letter” for outstanding teaching performance - Monash University
- 2011 - Professor of Economics Gold Medal for best performance - University of Colombo

CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

2025 - Brown University, Northeastern University, University of Toronto, University of Alberta, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, Monash University, Conference of the Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics - UNSW, Econometric Society World Congress - Seoul, South Korea, Conference of the Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science - Melbourne, Annual Natural Experiment Workshop - Deakin University

2024 - Australian National University, Far Siders Development Seminar, Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop - University of Sydney, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - University of Melbourne, Australian Conference of Economists - University of Adelaide, Queensland University of Technology, Econometric Society Australasia Meeting - Monash University

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, Organizational Economics Workshop - University of Sydney

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 ($\times 2$)

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

TEACHING

School of Economics, University of Sydney

ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics : S2 2022 (Instructor), S1 2023 (Unit coordinator and Instructor), S1 2024 (Unit coordinator and Instructor), S1 2025 (Instructor)

ECOS3035 Economics of Political Institutions : S1 2023 (Instructor), S1 2024 (Unit coordinator and Instructor), S1 2025 (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

THESIS SUPERVISION

School of Economics, University of Sydney

2023 - Sura Majeed (Honours)

2025 - Tiya Banerjee (Honours)

2025 - Annabelle Tan (Honours)

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

2024 - *to date* : Co-organizer [Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop](#)

2024 : Co-organizer - [Australian Political Economy Network Workshop](#)

2023 : Co-organizer - Semi-Periodic Agricultural and Development Economics Research Symposium

2022 - 2024 : 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

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Adjunct Research Fellow July 2022 - Present

SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia

Non-Resident Fellow July 2022 - Present

Center for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia

Member May 2023 - Present

Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney, Australia

Social Media Editor Aug 2023 - Sep 2025

Australian Economic Papers

REFEREEING ACTIVITY

Journals: Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization, Journal of Population Economics, Economic Modelling, Food Policy, Economic Record, Empirica, Journal of Asian Economics, German Economic Review

Grants: Australian Research Council

Conferences: Member of Scientific Committee (Political Economy) for the 2025 Annual Conference of the Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics at UNSW, Discussant at the Australian Cliometrics Workshop (2024) at UNSW, Discussant at the 37th PhD Conference in Economics and Business (2023) at the University of Melbourne (Best discussant award), Member of Scientific 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

PhD Theses: Nauman Malik (University of Western Australia); Ian Hoefer-Martí (UNSW)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

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

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

HNB Assurance PLC, Sri Lanka

2010 - 2015

Investments & Fund Management

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Sinhalese (native)

CITIZENSHIP

Australian and Sri Lankan