

ASHANI AMARASINGHE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer (Tenured Assistant Professor) <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	Jan 2025 -
Lecturer (Assistant Professor) <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Dec 2024
Associate Editor <i>Australian Economic Papers</i>	July 2024 - Present
Research Fellow <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	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., 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. (2023). “[Public Sentiment in Times of Terror](#)”, *Journal of Development Economics* 162, Article No. 103058. [WP version](#) | [In the media](#)
- Amarasinghe, A. (2022). “[Diverting Domestic Turmoil](#),” *Journal of Public Economics* 208, Article No. 104608. [WP version](#)

WORKING PAPERS

- [Conflicts in Networks](#) with Paul Raschky (Monash University) , Yves Zenou (Monash University) and Junjie Zhou (Tsinghua University) (*Reject and resubmit at European Economic Review*)
- [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](#) SoDa Labs Working Paper No.2022-02 with Paul Raschky (Monash University)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Getting along or getting ahead? The domestic roots of status-seeking in international relations, *with Kathryn Baragwanath (University of Melbourne)*

Domestic violence in post-conflict societies, *with Nidhiya Menon (Brandeis University), Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Tech University) and Kompal Sinha (Macquarie University)*

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

Quantifying digital perceptions of violence to safeguard vulnerable communities through mitigation of misinformation, *with Francesco Bailo (University of Sydney)*

Geography, history and the persistence of political attitudes, *with Paul Raschky (Monash University) and Miethy Zaman (Deakin University)*

Climate politics

Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis

GRANTS

2024-2026 - DP240101563 Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant “Political Conflict, Inefficient Markets, and Food Crises” (AUD 190,000), with David Ubilava, Justin Hastings and Andrey Vasnev

2024 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme “Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop” (AUD 7,500), with David Ubilava

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme “Australian Political Economy Network Workshop” (AUD 16,000), with Andrew Wait

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme “Semi-Periodic Agricultural and Development Economics Research Symposium” (AUD 6,000), with David Ubilava

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

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 - 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 - University of Melbourne*
- 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 (×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

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)

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

2024 - *to date* : Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop

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

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

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 - Present

Australian Economic Papers

REFEREEING ACTIVITY

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

Grants: Australian Research Council

Conferences: 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)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata, R, 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