

Nuwani Kodikara Palihawadana

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy – Statistics

Monash University, Australia

March 2021 – Present

- Project: Optimal Predictor Selection for High-dimensional Nonparametric Forecasting
- Scholarships:
 - Co-funded Monash Graduate Scholarship
 - Monash Business School Co-funded Graduate Research Scholarship
- Expected submission date: February 2025

Bachelor of Science (Honours) – Industrial Statistics

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Feb 2016 – Dec 2018

- Graduated with First Class Honours (GPA – 3.95/4.00 (Batch Top))
- Research: Generalising Vector Autoregressive (VAR) Model for Functional Time Series
 - Mathematically extending classical VAR model for Functional Time Series, by developing the statistical theory of Functional Vector Autoregressive (FVAR) Model of order one
 - Demonstrating the practical application of the newly extended model using a real data set

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), UK - Exam completed student 2017

General Certificate of Education - Advanced Level

St.Paul's Girls' School, Milagiriya, Sri Lanka

2011 – 2013

- University Entrance Score (z-score): 1.65

AWARDS

Monash University, Australia

2021

- Monash Business School Student Excellence Award for BEX6510 Foundations of Econometrics

Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)

2019

- Physical Science Award – Statistics

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

2018

- CR and Bhargavi Rao Gold Medal for Statistics
- Gold Medal for Industrial Statistics
- Gold Medal for the Best Final Year Research Project in Industrial Statistics
- Joseph Nalliah Arumugam Memorial Award

- Award for the Best All Rounder

PUBLICATIONS

UNPUBLISHED WORKING PAPERS

- Palihawadana, NK, RJ Hyndman, and X Wang (2024). Sparse Multiple Index Models for High-dimensional Nonparametric Forecasting. Working paper 16/24. Department of Econometrics & Business Statistics, Monash University. <https://www.monash.edu/business/ebs/research/publications/ebs/2024/wp16-2024.pdf>.

SOFTWARE (R PACKAGES)

- Palihawadana, N, and X Wang (2024). smimodel: Sparse Multiple Index (SMI) Models for High-dimensional Nonparametric Forecasting. Version 0.0.1. <https://github.com/nuwani-palihawadana/smimodel>.
- Hyndman, RJ, G Athanasopoulos, M O'Hara-Wild, N Palihawadana, S Wickramasuriya, and RStudio (2024). fpp3: Data for "Forecasting: Principles and Practice" (3rd Edition). Version 1.0.0. <https://pkg.robjhyndman.com/fpp3package/>.
- Zhang H, X Wang, N Palihawadana, and J Lakshika (2023). olympics: Olympic data from olympic.com. Version 0.0.1. <https://numbats.github.io/olympics/index.html>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TEACHING ASSOCIATE

Monash University, Australia

2022 – 2023

- ETC3400 Principles of Econometrics – Conducted tutorial sessions

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT LECTURER

Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Feb 2019 – Feb 2021

- MS 3009 Operational Research II – Conducted lectures, set exam paper
- ST 2007 Applications in Statistical Inference – Conducted lectures, set assignments
- IS 1006 Fundamentals in Statistics – Conducted practical sessions
- SCS 2211 Laboratory II (Statistical Methods using R) – Conducted lectures
- ST 1012 Basic Statistical Computing – Conducted practical sessions
- IS 3053 Data Mining – Teaching Assistant
- ST 2008 Statistical Methods in Quality Control – Conducted lectures, set exam paper
- MS 2001 Statistical Quality Control – Conducted lectures, set exam paper

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics, Monash University, Australia

June 2022 – Present

Data pre-processing and wrangling, report editing.

Supervisors: Associate Professor Bonsoo Koo, Professor Rob J. Hyndman

INTERN – ANALYST

MAS Pixel of MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd., MAS Holdings, Sri Lanka

Aug 2018 – Feb 2019

Data mapping, data collection, data wrangling, business insight generation through data visualisation, predictive modelling.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Vice-captain of the Table Tennis (Women's) Team, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka 2018
- Assistant Secretary, Students' Association for Industrial and Financial Analysis (SAIFA), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka 2016
- Head Prefect, St. Paul's Girls' School, Milagiriya, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka 2012

REFERENCES

Available upon request