

# Dhanushka Arunasiri Peru

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EDUCATION	<b>Ph.D. in Economics</b> , University of Houston (Expected) July 2020 <i>Dissertation Committee: Willa Friedman (Chair), Aimee Chin, Chinhui Juhn</i> <b>M.A. in Economics</b> , University of Houston August 2019 <b>Master of Financial Economics</b> , University of Colombo, Sri Lanka January 2014 <b>B.S. in Engineering (Electrical)</b> , University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka June 2009
FIELDS OF INTEREST	Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Health Economics
SKILLS	Proficient in STATA, Working knowledge in R, MATLAB, Python & SQL L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, SPSS, RATS, Microsoft suite of products.
CERTIFICATES	IBM Data Science Professional Certificate on Coursera May 2020 CFA, Passed Level I July 2014
HONORS & AWARDS	<b>Teaching Award</b> , Department of Economics, University of Houston 2019 • Awarded to one out of a batch of 20 graduate students for excellence in mentoring and teaching students. <b>Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant</b> , University of Houston 2019 <b>Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship</b> , University of Houston 2015 to Present
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Instructor</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Intermediate Macroeconomics Spring & Summer 2019 Principles of Macroeconomics Fall 2017, Summer & Fall 2018  <b>Teaching Assistant</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Microeconomics Theory II (Game Theory) - Ph.D. Level Spring 2017 -Conducted weekly tutorial sessions  <b>Teaching Assistant</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Behavioral Economics Fall 2019 & Spring 2020 Introduction to Economic Data Analysis Spring & Fall 2016 Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2015, Spring 2018  <b>Instructor</b> Center for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka 2012-2015 -Taught courses in Financial Institutions and Regulations for bankers and professionals.

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Director**

September 2010 - July 2015

Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Developed national policies foreign investments and trade as a team member.
- Analyzed and approved foreign investments and financial derivatives.
- Led the Investigation Division of the Department of Foreign Exchange.
- Investigated and prosecuted firms and individuals for non-compliance with regulations.
- Assisted the Attorney General's Department on litigation on financial transactions.
- Issued, and enforced regulatory permits to private entities.
- Supervised, mentored and trained six employees on conducting investigations.
- Redesigned the file recording system for improved efficiency.

**Electrical Engineer**

February 2010 - September 2010

Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Supervised and directed the maintenance team by assigning task schedules.
- Documented the technical specification of the power station as a simplified and user-friendly presentation targeting both technical and non-technical workers.

**Engineer**

August 2009 - January 2010

Bharti Airtel Lanka Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Managed the maintenance of 400 communication towers using sub-contractors.
- Reduced fuel waste by implementing a new recording and monitoring system.

WORKING  
PAPERS

**Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions: Evidence from Sri Lanka [[JobMarketPaper](#)].**

*Abstract:* Concerns about left-behind children and dangerous working conditions abroad have encouraged some governments to restrict women's labor migration. I examine how women's fertility responds to such restrictions in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government introduced a policy in 2013 prohibiting women from migrating for work based on their age and the age of their youngest child. These restrictions could alter fertility decisions, with women simultaneously choosing between future employment and childbearing. Using a panel dataset created from the Demographic and Health Survey in a regression discontinuity in time framework, I find that women from poor households, who are most likely to migrate, change their fertility behavior. Young women, who are already restricted from migrating based on their own age increase their fertility. Older women, who are restricted from migrating only if they have young children, reduce their fertility. As a result, new mothers are less-educated and younger, which may have an impact on child outcomes. My findings contribute to the literature on migration policies in developing countries and trade-offs between women's employment and fertility decisions.

**Trends in Wage Inequality in Sri Lanka.**

*Abstract:* Stylized facts suggest that wage inequality in Sri Lanka has increased over the 1996-2006 period followed by a significant decrease over the 2006 to 2014 period. Using Labor Force Survey data and a supply and demand framework, I find that an increase in the relative supply of high skilled workers alone does not explain the differential trends in wage inequality. Significant shifts in factor demand in favor of high skilled workers contributed to the increase in wage inequality in the earlier period. Although the shift in demand still favors high skill workers in the later period, the increase in relative supply has the dominant effect contributing to the decrease in wage inequality. Moreover, I find evidence of occupational downgrading towards low skilled workers in the later period.

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

**“The Effects of Chronic Disease on Household Labor Supply”**

Men play a significant part in labor-intensive agricultural work in some regions in developing countries. Productivity shocks to men’s labor supply can affect household economics. I explore how Chronic Kidney Disease with unknown epistemology (CKDu) – a region-specific disease common to agricultural areas in Sri Lanka and certain Latin American countries that disproportionately affects men – alters household resource allocation and labor supply.

SEMINARS &  
CONFERENCES

IUSSP Population, Poverty and Inequality Conference, Paris, France (Scheduled)	2021
Pacific Conference For Development Economics, Berkeley, CA	March 2020
Texas Health Economics Conference, Waco, TX	December 2019
Graduate Research Showcase, University of Houston	November 2019
Empirical Microeconomics Seminar, University of Houston	October 2019
Missouri Valley Economic Association, Kansas City, MO	October 2019
Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Houston, TX	September 2019
Graduate Student Workshop, University of Houston	May 2018, May 2019
Graduate Student Brown Bag, University of Houston	2017 to Present

LANGUAGES

English, Sinhala (Native)

CITIZENSHIP /  
VISA

Sri Lanka/ F1 Visa (STEM OPT Extension Eligible)

REFERENCES

**Prof. Willa Friedman**  
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University of Houston  
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**Prof. Aimee Chin**  
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University of Houston  
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E-mail: [achin@uh.edu](mailto:achin@uh.edu)

**Prof. Chinhui Juhn**  
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University of Houston  
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**Prof. Ruxandra Prodan-Boul (Teaching)**  
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