

Dhanushka Arunasiri Peru Durayalage

Department of Economics
University of Houston
3623 Cullen Boulevard, Room 248
Houston, TX 77204

E-mail: pddarunasiri@gmail.com
Mobile: 281 624-7598
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/pddarunasiri>

EDUCATION **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Houston (Expected) May 2020

M.A. in Economics, University of Houston August 2019

Master of Financial Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka January 2014

B.S. in Engineering (Electrical), University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka June 2009

FIELDS OF INTEREST Labor Economics, Demographic Economics, Health Economics, Development Economics, Applied Econometrics

RESEARCH PAPERS **Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions [*Job Market Paper*].**

Abstract: As of 2018, more than 68 million women were working in foreign countries. Concerns for the left-behind children and dangerous working conditions abroad have fueled government restrictions on women's labor migration in some countries. I examine how women's fertility responds to such labor migration restrictions in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government restricts some women from migrating for work based on their age and the age of their youngest child. These restrictions could have an effect when women simultaneously choose investments in future employment and childbearing. Using a panel data set created from Demographic and Health Survey in a regression-discontinuity-in-time framework, I find that women from poor households, those most likely to migrate for work, change the timing of childbearing in response to these restrictions. Younger women, whose age precludes travel whether or not they have children, increase their fertility. Older women are free to migrate for foreign employment only if they do not have a child under five years old. They have a higher opportunity cost of having a child, and thus, they reduce their fertility. My findings contribute to the literature on migration restrictions in developing countries and trade-offs between women's employment and fertility decisions.

Trends in wage inequality in Sri Lanka [*Working paper*].

Abstract: Stylized facts suggest that wage inequality in Sri Lanka has increased over 1996-2006 period followed by a significant decrease over 2006 to 2014 period. Using Labor Force Survey data and supply and demand framework, I find that an increase in relative supply of high skilled workers alone does not explain the differential trends in wage inequality. There is also a significant shift in factor demand for high skilled workers in the 1996-2006 period, which is countered by a higher increase in relative supply from 2006-14. This contributes to an overall decrease in wage inequality. Moreover, I found evidence for occupational upgrade among low skill workers in the later period.

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| WORK EXPERIENCE | Assistant Director Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka | September 2010 - July 2015 |
| | Electrical Engineer Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka | February 2010 - September 2010 |
| | Engineer Bharti Airtel Lanka Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka | August 2009 - January 2010 |
| TEACHING EXPERIENCE | Instructor Department of Economics, University of Houston Intermediate Macroeconomics Principles of Macroeconomics | Spring & Summer 2019 Fall 2017, Summer & Fall 2018 |
| | Teaching Assistant Department of Economics, University of Houston Behavioral Economics Microeconomics Theory II - PhD Level Introduction to Economic Data Analysis Intermediate Microeconomics | Fall 2019 Spring 2017 Spring & Fall 2016 Fall 2015, Spring 2018 |
| | HONORS & AWARDS | Department Teaching Award, University of Houston 2019 Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant, University of Houston 2019 Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston 2015 to Present |
| SKILLS | STATA, R, L ^A T _E X, SPSS, RATS, Microsoft Office | |
| SEMINARS & CONFERENCES | Graduate Research Showcase, University of Houston (Scheduled) | 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 - current |
| LANGUAGES | English, Sinhala (Native) | |
| CITIZENSHIP / VISA | Sri Lanka/F1 Visa | |
| REFERENCES | Prof. Willa Friedman University of Houston E-mail: whfriedman@uh.edu | Prof. Aimee Chin University of Houston E-mail: achin@uh.edu |
| | Prof. Chinhui Juhn Department of Economics University of Houston E-mail: cjuhn@uh.edu | Prof. Ruxandra Prodan-Boul (Teaching) Department of Economics University of Houston E-mail: rprodan@uh.edu |