

Dhanushka Arunasiri Peru

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

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

EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics , University of Houston <i>Dissertation Committee: Willa Friedman (Chair), Aimee Chin, Chinhui Juhn</i>	(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 Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Health Economics

COURSEWORK Applied Econometrics, Econometrics, Macro Modeling and Forecasting, Game Theory, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Economic Growth and Development, International Trade, Human Capital, International Monetary Policy, Financial Markets, Financial Accounting and Management, Planning and Project Appraisal.

WORKING PAPERS **Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions: Evidence from Sri Lanka [Job Market Paper].**

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”	
HONORS & AWARDS	Teaching Award , Department of Economics, University of Houston Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant , University of Houston Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship , University of Houston	2019 2019 2015 to Present
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 Microeconomics Theory II (Game Theory) - Ph.D. Level - <i>Conducted weekly tutorial sessions</i>	Spring 2017
	Teaching Assistant Department of Economics, University of Houston Behavioral Economics Introduction to Economic Data Analysis Intermediate Microeconomics	Fall 2019 Spring & Fall 2016 Fall 2015, Spring 2018
	Resource Person Center for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka - <i>Taught courses in Financial Institutions and Regulations for bankers and professionals.</i>	2012-2015
WORK EXPERIENCE	Assistant Director Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and formulated national policies related to cross-border investments, trade, and transfers as a team member. • Analyzed and approved foreign investments, capital account transactions and financial derivatives based on financial viability. • Led the Investigation Division of the Department of Foreign Exchange. Investigated and prosecuted firms, financial institutions, and individuals for non-compliance with financial regulations. • Worked with the Attorney General’s Department on litigation related to financial institutions. • Issued, enforced and monitored regulatory permits to money changing businesses and shipping corporations. • Supervised, mentored and trained six employees of the investigation division on planning and implementing investigations. • Redesigned the file recording system for improved efficiency. 	September 2010 - July 2015
	Electrical Engineer Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended emergency breakdowns of the Sapugaskanda power station, Sri Lanka. • Supervised and directed the maintenance team of the power station by assigning task schedules. 	February 2010 - September 2010

- 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		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed the maintenance of 400 communication towers by managing and coordinating sub-contracted companies. • Reduced fuel waste of work sites by implementing a new recording and monitoring system. • Inspected and tested the installation of electrical systems of communication towers. 	
SKILLS	STATA, R, MATLAB, L ^A T _E X, SPSS, RATS, Microsoft Office	
CERTIFICATES	CFA, Passed Level I	2014
LANGUAGES	English, Sinhala (Native)	
CITIZENSHIP / VISA	Sri Lanka/ F1 Visa (STEM OPT Extension Eligible)	
SEMINARS & CONFERENCES	IUSSP Population, Poverty and Inequality Conference, Paris, France Texas Health Economics Conference, Waco, TX Graduate Research Showcase, University of Houston Empirical Microeconomics Seminar, University of Houston Missouri Valley Economic Association, Kansas City, MO Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Houston, TX Graduate Student Workshop, University of Houston Graduate Student Brown Bag, University of Houston	June 2020 December 2019 November 2019 October 2019 October 2019 September 2019 May 2018, May 2019 2017 to Present
REFERENCES	<p>Prof. Willa Friedman Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-5620 E-mail: whfriedman@uh.edu</p> <p>Prof. Chinhui Juhn Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3823 E-mail: cjuhn@uh.edu</p>	<p>Prof. Aimee Chin Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3761 E-mail: achin@uh.edu</p> <p>Prof. Ruxandra Prodan-Boul (Teaching) Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3836 E-mail: rprodan@uh.edu</p>