

# Dhanushka Arunasiri Peru

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EDUCATION	<b>Ph.D. in Economics</b> , University of Houston (Expected) May 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
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WORKING PAPERS	<b>Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions: Evidence from Sri Lanka [Job Market Paper].</b>
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*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 child-bearing. 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 [Working Paper].**

*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”	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Instructor</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Intermediate Macroeconomics Principles of Macroeconomics	Spring & Summer 2019 Fall 2017, Summer & Fall 2018
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Microeconomics Theory II (Game Theory) - Ph.D. Level <i>-Conducted weekly tutorial sessions</i>	Spring 2017
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Department of Economics, University of Houston Behavioral Economics Introduction to Economic Data Analysis Intermediate Microeconomics	Fall 2019 Spring & Fall 2016 Fall 2015, Spring 2018
	<b>Resource Person</b> Center for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2012-2015
WORK EXPERIENCE	<b>Assistant Director</b> Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka • Worked in a team on capital account liberalization of Sri Lanka. • Analyzed and approved foreign investments based on financial viability. • Led the Investigation Division of the Department of Foreign Exchange.	September 2010 - July 2015
	<b>Electrical Engineer</b> Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka Bharti Airtel Lanka Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka	February 2010 - September 2010 August 2009 - February 2010
HONORS & AWARDS	<b>Teaching Award</b> , Department of Economics, University of Houston <b>Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant</b> , University of Houston <b>Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship</b> , University of Houston	2019 2019 2015 to Present
SKILLS	STATA, R, MATLAB, $\text{\LaTeX}$ , SPSS, RATS, Microsoft Office	
CERTIFICATES	CFA, Passed Level I	2014
SEMINARS & CONFERENCES	Texas Health Economics Conference, Waco, TX (Scheduled) 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	December 2019 November 2019 October 2019 October 2019 September 2019 May 2018, May 2019 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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**Prof. Ruxandra Prodan-Boul (Teaching)**

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