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EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics , University of Houston (Expected) May 2020 <i>Dissertation Committee: Willa Friedman (Chair), Aimee Chin, Chinhui Juhn</i>
	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
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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.
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WORKING PAPERS	Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions: Evidence from Sri Lanka [Job Market Paper].
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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 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	2019
	Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant , University of Houston	2019
	Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship , University of Houston	2015 to Present
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor	
	Department of Economics, University of Houston	
	Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring & Summer 2019
	Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2017, Summer & Fall 2018
	Teaching Assistant	
	Department of Economics, University of Houston	
	Microeconomics Theory II (Game Theory) - Ph.D. Level	Spring 2017
	<i>-Conducted weekly tutorial sessions</i>	
	Teaching Assistant	
	Department of Economics, University of Houston	
	Behavioral Economics	Fall 2019
	Introduction to Economic Data Analysis	Spring & Fall 2016
	Intermediate Microeconomics	Fall 2015, Spring 2018
	Resource Person	
	Center for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2012-2015
	<i>-Taught courses in Financial Institutions and Regulations for bankers and professionals.</i>	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Assistant Director	September 2010 - July 2015
	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. 	
	Electrical Engineer	February 2010 - September 2010
	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. 	

- 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 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, TeX , 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 June 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	
REFERENCES	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Prof. Willa Friedman Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-5620 E-mail: whfriedman@uh.edu</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Prof. Aimee Chin Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3761 E-mail: achin@uh.edu</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Prof. Chinhui Juhn Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3823 E-mail: cjuhn@uh.edu</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Prof. Ruxandra Prodan-Boul (Teaching) Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3836 E-mail: rprodan@uh.edu</p> </div> </div>	