

# 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	Development Economics, Labor Economics, Demographic Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics
WORKING PAPERS	<b>Women's Labor Market Opportunities and Fertility Decisions: Evidence from Sri Lanka [Job Market Paper].</b>

*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 prohibits women from migrating for work based on their age and the age of their youngest child. These restrictions could alter fertility decisions when women simultaneously choose 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 change the timing of childbearing by having children earlier. Older women, who are restricted from migrating only if they have young children, reduce their fertility. As a result of these two effects, I see that new mothers after the policy was enacted 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 productivity Shock to Men's Labor Supply on Household Resource Allocation"	
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 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
WORK EXPERIENCE	<b>Assistant Director</b> Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka	September 2010 - July 2015
	<b>Electrical Engineer</b> Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka Bharti Airtel Lanka Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka	August 2009 - February 2010 February 2010 - September 2010
HONORS & AWARDS	Department Teaching Award, University of Houston Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant, University of Houston Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship, 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 Student Brown Bag, University of Houston	December 2019 November 2019 October 2019 October 2019 September 2019 May 2018, May 2019 Graduate 2017 to Present
LANGUAGES	English, Sinhala (Native)	
CITIZENSHIP / VISA	Sri Lanka/ F1 Visa (STEM OPT Extension Eligible)	
REFERENCES	<b>Prof. Willa Friedman</b> Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-5620 E-mail: <a href="mailto:whfriedman@uh.edu">whfriedman@uh.edu</a>	<b>Prof. Aimee Chin</b> Department of Economics University of Houston Phone: 713-743-3761 E-mail: <a href="mailto:achin@uh.edu">achin@uh.edu</a>

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