

Dhanushka Arunasiri Peru

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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	
RESEARCH TECHNIQUES	Time Series Analysis, Structural Estimation, Reduced Form Estimation, Ordinary Least Squares, Fixed Effects, Propensity-score Matching, Difference-in-Differences, Instrumental Variable, Regression-Discontinuity.	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Assistant Director Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.Worked with the Attorney General's Department on litigation related to financial institutions.	September 2010 - July 2015
	Electrical Engineer Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended emergency breakdowns of the power plant.Supervised the maintenance team of the power plant by assigning task schedules and directing subordinates.	February 2010 - September 2010
	Engineer Bharti Airtel Lanka Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none">Managed 400 communication towers via sub-contracted companies.Inspected the installation of electrical systems of communication towers.	August 2009 - January 2010
SKILLS	STATA, R, MATLAB, L ^A T _E X, SPSS, RATS, Microsoft Office	
CERTIFICATES	CFA, Passed Level I	2014
CITIZENSHIP / VISA	Sri Lanka/ F1 Visa (STEM OPT Extension Eligible)	

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 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.

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.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Department of Economics, University of Houston

2017 - 2019

Teaching Assistant

Department of Economics, University of Houston

2015 - 2019

Resource Person

Center for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka

2012-2015

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

SEMINARS &
CONFERENCES

Texas Health Economics Conference, Waco, TX (Scheduled)

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 Graduate Student Brown Bag, University of Houston	May 2018, May 2019 2017 to Present
LANGUAGES	English, Sinhala (Native)	
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>