

# ASHANI AMARASINGHE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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NSW 2006

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## CURRENT POSITIONS

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<b>Assistant Professor (Lecturer)</b> <i>School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Adjunct Research Fellow</b> <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Non-Resident Fellow</b> <i>Center for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2022 - Present
<b>Member</b> <i>Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney, Australia</i>	May 2023 - Present
<b>Social Media Editor</b> <i>Australian Economic Papers</i>	Aug 2023 - Present

## PAST POSITIONS

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<b>Research Fellow</b> <i>SoDa Laboratories, Monash University, Australia</i>	July 2020 - June 2022
<b>Teaching Associate</b> <i>Department of Economics, Monash University, Australia</i>	2016 - 2020
<b>Visiting Lecturer</b> <i>University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</i>	2013 - 2014

## EDUCATION

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<b>Monash University, Australia</b> Ph.D (Economics) Advisors: Professor Paul Raschky, Professor Yves Zenou	2016 - 2020
<b>University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</b> Bachelor of Arts (Economics) First Class Honours	2007 - 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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Amarasinghe, A. (2023). “[Public Sentiment in Times of Terror](#)”, *Journal of Development Economics* 162, Article No. 103058. [WP version](#) | [In the media](#)

Amarasinghe, A. (2022). “[Diverting Domestic Turmoil](#),” *Journal of Public Economics* 208, Article No. 104608. [WP version](#)

## WORKING PAPERS

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[Key Players in Economic Development](#) *IZA DP No. 13071* with Roland Hodler (University of St. Gallen), Paul Raschky (Monash University) and Yves Zenou (Monash University) (**Revise and Re-submit at *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization***)

[Conflicts in Networks](#) with Paul Raschky (Monash University) , Yves Zenou (Monash University) and Junjie Zhou (Tsinghua University)

[Partisan Alignment, Insurgency and Public Safety: Evidence from the Indian Red-corridor](#) with Pushkar Maitra (Monash University) and Yuchen Zhong (University of Melbourne)

[Competing for Attention: The Effect of Talk Radio on Elections and Political Polarization in the US](#) *SoDa Labs Working Paper No.2022-02* with Paul Raschky (Monash University)

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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(How) do natural resources affect international relations?, *with Kathryn Baragwanath (Harvard University)*

Domestic violence in post-conflict societies, *with Nidhiya Menon (Brandeis University), Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Tech University), Kompal Sinha (Macquarie University) and Ashani Abayasekera (Monash University)*

Judicial reforms and conflict: Evidence from 55 countries, *with Siddharth George (National University of Singapore)*

Geography, history and the persistence of political attitudes, *with Paul Raschky (Monash University) and Miethy Zaman (Deakin University)*

Climate change and domestic discontent

Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

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2024-2026 - DP240101563 Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant “Political Conflict, Inefficient Markets, and Food Crises” (AUD 190,000), with David Ubilava, Justin Hastings and Andrey Vasnev

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme “Australian Political Economy Network Workshop” (AUD 16,000), with Andrew Wait

2023 - School of Economics - University of Sydney, Workshop Grant Scheme “Semi-Periodic Agricultural and Development Economics Research Symposium” (AUD 6,000), with David Ubilava

2023 - Monash-Warwick Alliance, “Applied Young Economist Webinar Series” (AUD 8,000 & GBP 4,000), with Paul Raschky, Sascha Becker, Ivan Yotzov and Patrick Healy

2023 - Competitive “Research Incubator” Program for early career researchers, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Economics, University of Sydney

2022-2025 - Research start up fund, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Economics, University of Sydney (AUD 15,000 per year)

2021 - Monash Business School competitive ECR Research Grant Scheme, “Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis” (AUD 10,000)

2021 - Monash Business School COVID-19 Disrupted Research Grant Scheme (AUD 10,000), with Paul Raschky

2021 - Monash-Warwick Alliance Connections Fund, “Applied Young Economist Webinar Series” (AUD 4,000 & GBP 2,000), with Paul Raschky, Sascha Becker and Ivan Yotzov

2020 - “Purple Letter” for outstanding teaching performance - Monash University

2019 / 2017 - Australasian Development Economics Workshop Travel Grant

2017 - Monash University CDES Competitive Travel Grant

2016 - Australia Post-graduate Award/ Research Training Program Scholarship

2011 - Professor of Economics Gold Medal for best performance - University of Colombo

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

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2024 - Australian National University\*, Far Siders Development Seminar, Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop - University of Sydney\*

2023 - Western Economic Association International Conference - University of Melbourne, Resilient Democracy Lab Workshop - UNSW\*, Sydney Development Economics Group Workshop - UNSW, Semi-Periodic Agricultural Development Economics Research Symposium - University of Sydney\*, Workshop on Big Data in Social Science - University of Sydney\*, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - Macquarie University, Econometric Society Australasia Meeting - UNSW, Organizational Economics Workshop - University of Sydney\*

2022 - Sydney Development Economics Group Workshop, Australian National University\*, Australian Political Economy Network (APEN) Workshop - University of Queensland, ASREC Conference, Melbourne Institute - University of Melbourne\*, University of Sydney (×2)

2021 - Deakin University, Workshop on Natural Experiments in History, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - Monash University, Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society, Meeting of the European Public Choice Society

2020 - Applied Young Economist Webinar (AYEW), Oz Virtual Economics Research Seminar (OVERS)\*, Brown Bag Seminar - Monash University

2019 - Monash Business School Doctoral Colloquium, Conflict and Economic Development Workshop - Deakin University, Australian Conference of Economists, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - University of Western Australia

2018 - Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of African Economies - University of Oxford

2017 - Annual Australasian Public Choice Conference - Deakin University, 30th PhD Conference in Economics and Business - University of Melbourne, Summer School in Development Economics - Italian Development Economists Association, Australasian Development Economics Workshop - UNSW

*\*Invited Seminar*

## TEACHING

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*School of Economics, University of Sydney*

2024 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

2024 - ECOS3035 Economics of Political Institutions (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

2023 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

2023 - ECOS3020/ECON6101 Economics of Political Institutions (Instructor)

2022 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics (Instructor)

## THESIS SUPERVISION

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*School of Economics, University of Sydney*

2023 - Sura Majeed (Honours)

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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2024 : Co-organizer - Australian Political Economy Network Workshop

2024 - Co-organizer - Social Conflict and Political Economy Workshop

2023 - Co-organizer - Semi-Periodic Agricultural and Development Economics Research Symposium

2022 - *to date* : Co-organizer - [Sydney Development Economics Group](#)

2020 - *to date* : Founder and Co-organizer - [Applied Young Economist Webinar](#)

2021 - 2022 : Member of the Leadership Board - SoDa Laboratories

2020 - 2022 : Social Media Coordinator - SoDa Laboratories

2020 - 2022 : Organizer - [SoDa Labs Webinar](#)

2019 - 2022 : Co-organizer - SoDa Labs Reading Group

2017 - 2018: Co-organizer - PhD Seminar Series, Department of Economics - Monash University

## REFEREEING ACTIVITY

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**Journals:** Journal of Population Economics, Economic Modelling, Empirica, Journal of Asian Economics, German Economic Review

**Conferences:** Discussant at the 37th PhD Conference in Economics and Business (2023) at the University of Melbourne, Member of Scientific Committee (Political Economy) for the 2023 Australasian Meeting of the Econometric Society; Reviewer and Discussant at Monash University's 2021 Doctoral Colloquium; Panel Member for selecting the best PhD paper at 2021 Australasian Development Economics Workshop

**PhD Theses:** Nauman Malik (University of Western Australia)

## SOFTWARE SKILLS

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Stata, R, ArcGIS, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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**HNB Assurance PLC, Sri Lanka**

2010 - 2015

*Investments & Fund Management*

## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent), Sinhalese (native)

## CITIZENSHIP

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Australian and Sri Lankan