

# 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](#)

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, Paul Raschky and Yves Zenou (**Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization***)

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

[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

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

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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Public response to resource windfalls, *with Kathryn Baragwanath*

Climate change and domestic discontent

Quantifying government behaviour through text analysis

Geography, History and the Persistence of Political Attitudes, *with Paul Raschky and Miethy Zaman*

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

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2024 - Australian National University\*

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: Conflict and Economic Development (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

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

2023 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics: Conflict and Economic Development (Unit coordinator and Instructor)

2023 - ECOS3020 Economics of Political Institutions, Development and Culture (Instructor)

2022 - ECOS3997 Interdisciplinary Impact in Economics: Conflict and Economic Development (Instructor)

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

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

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

2008 - Faculty of Arts Scholarship for best performance - University of Colombo

## 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  
2023 - *to date* : 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 Program 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**  
*Investments & Fund Management*

2010 - 2015

## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent), Sinhalese (native)

## CITIZENSHIP

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Australian and Sri Lankan

## REFERENCES

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**Professor Paul Raschky**

Department of Economics

Monash University

Australia

paul.raschky@monash.edu

**Professor Yves Zenou**

Department of Economics

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**Professor Sascha Becker**

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