

## **DHANUSHKA THAMARAPANI**

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D.	Department of Economics, Clark University, (expected May 2016)
M.A.	Department of Economics, Clark University, 2013
B.A.	Economics ( <i>first class honors</i> ), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, 2009
Student Exchange Scholarship	Saga University, Japan, 2006 - 2007

### **DISSERTATION**

Title “Essays on the Children of the Developing Countries”  
Committee: Marc Rockmore (Chair), Wayne Gray, Chih Ming Tan

### **FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Primary: Development Economics, Applied Econometrics, Spatial Economics  
Secondary: Health Economics, Labor Economics, Population Economics

### **WORKING PAPERS**

“The Impact of Sustained Attention on Labor Market Outcomes: The Case of Ghana.” Under review.  
2014 (with Chih Ming Tan)

#### Abstract

In this paper, we go beyond traditional measures of cognitive abilities (IQ) in explaining labor market and social outcomes in developing countries. We exploit a rich dataset from Ghana that provides information on demographics, labor market outcomes, and a direct measure of cognitive ability along with other test scores to construct a measure of sustained attention. Our work is therefore related to the broader literature in Psychology on the importance of executive function on individual behavior and outcomes. We find that, at least for the case of Ghana, after controlling for IQ and other covariates, higher levels of sustained attention are associated with higher annual income, higher education and a higher likelihood of being employed in a white collar job.

“Early Life Experiences and Adult Fertility Behavior: Evidence from Indonesia.” Working paper. 2015 (with Marc Rockmore and Willa Friedman)

#### Abstract

An emerging literature finds that early life experiences influence adult preference. We apply this intuition to understand the influence of witnessing adverse pregnancy outcomes and sibling deaths as a child on subsequent adult fertility outcomes in Indonesia. Using panel data and a sibling fixed effect model, we identify solely based on the exogenous variation in the age of preexisting children with the same family. Our findings strongly confirm the importance and persistence of early life experiences. This suggests that early life interventions may be important and that the efficacy of health interventions may not be visible until decades afterwards.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

“Estimating the Changes in Household Assets and Child Health Outcomes in the Wake of Natural Disasters.” Draft. 2015.

“The Spatial Distribution of Educational Resources in Sri Lanka.” Draft. 2014.

### PRESENTATIONS

UNU-WIDER Conference on Human Capital and Growth, Presenter, June 2016 (future)	Helsinki, Finland
Population Association of America (PAA) Conference, Poster Presenter, March 2016 (future)	Washington, DC
Royal Economic Society (RES) Conference, March 2016 (future)	Brighton, UK
Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Conference organized by Quinnipiac University, Presenter, February 2016	Washington, DC
International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC) organized by East-West Center, Presenter, February 2016	Honolulu, HI
Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Presenter, November 2015	Providence, RI
80 <sup>th</sup> International Atlantic Economic Society (IAES), Presenter, October 2015	Boston, MA
3 <sup>rd</sup> Asian Population Association (APA) Conference organized by, July 2015 (declined attendance)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference organized by University of Oxford, Session Chair and Presenter, March 2015	Oxford, UK
Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Conference organized by Quinnipiac University, Session Chair and Presenter, March 2015	New York, NY
International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC) organized by East-West Center, Presenter, February 2015	Honolulu, HI
Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Conference organized by the Ramapo College, Presenter, March 2014	Boston, MA
New England-Saint Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (NESTVAL) Conference organized by Department of Geography, Clark University, Presenter, October 2013	Worcester, MA

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant: Clark University Worcester, MA  
Data analysis, literature search and writing for the Fertility Preferences project on Indonesia, for Dr. Marc Rockmore, 2014 - present  
Data compilation/preparation and regression analysis with STATA for Noncognitive Abilities project on Ghana, for Dr. Chih Ming Tan, 2012- 2014  
Digitizing paper maps and spatial analysis using ArcGIS on land cover change in Puleliya, Sri Lanka, for Dr. Jude Fernando, 2012

## **CONSULTING**

Analyst: Smart Transit (Funded by National Center for Mobility Management Worcester, MA  
Federal Grant) (2015)  
Prepared impact evaluation survey for the target population being served by the Smart Transit Project, which is a software solution for providing access to healthcare for the low income populations  
Conducted focus groups and pilot survey testing  
Analyzed survey data using statistical software for the donors and investors

Consultant: Agricultural Cooperation (AGCO) (2011-2013) Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka  
Reviewed and prepared project reports for agricultural and small scale businesses

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor: Clark University Worcester, MA  
Department of Economics  
Introduction to Statistical Analysis (Econ 160), Spring 2016  
Economics and the World Economy (Econ 010), Fall 2013 and Fall 2015  
Microeconomic Theory (Econ 205), Fall 2014  
Microeconomic Theory with Calculus (Econ 204), Spring 2014

Department of International Development and Social Change (IDCE)  
Statistics workshop for graduate students, 2013-15

College for Professional and Continuing Education (COPACE)  
Statistics (Math 1470), Summer 2013-16

Teaching Assistant: Department of Economics  
Principles of Economics (Econ 011), Fall 2010 and Spring 2015  
Introduction to Statistical Analysis (Econ 160), Fall 2012 and Spring 2013  
Economics and the World Economy (Econ 010), Spring 2011, Fall 2011, and Spring 2012  
Applied Game Theory (Econ 224), Spring 2012

Lecturer: School of Engineering, University of Moratuwa Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
Department of Transport and Logistics Management  
Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Transport Functions, 2009 - 2010  
Collaborated with a team of six in organizing the South Asia Regional Conference in  
Transport & Logistics, Evening with Aviation Leaders, and Training Program on  
Supply Chains  
Edited academic documents and the departmental website

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

\$400 East-West Center Travel Award, 2016	Honolulu, HI
\$300 East-West Center Travel Award, 2015	Honolulu, HI
\$500 Harry Sheftel Research Award, 2015	Worcester, MA
\$300 President's Office Travel Award, 2015	Worcester, MA
\$300 Graduate Student Council Travel Award, 2014	Worcester, MA
\$700 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Clark University, 2013	Worcester, MA
\$2000 Summer Research Assistantship, Department of Economics, Clark University, 2012-15	Worcester, MA

## **VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP**

Ivy Child International, a children's non-profit organization, 2014 - 2015 Worcester, MA  
Worked as the outreach coordinator for education network for the Yogathon, a day of yoga and art, to teach children mindfulness in coping with stress and life  
Helped conduct Yoga In the Park program, a weekly free event for the Worcester community to practice yoga  
Collaborated with a team of ten volunteers in organizing Journey to Kerala, the fundraising event for Ivy Child International

Seven Hills Global, a non-profit organization, 2013 - 2014 Worcester, MA  
Researched on Ebola assistance, education, health, microfinance and humanitarian assistance in developing countries

Clark University, 2013 - 2015 Worcester, MA  
Collaborated with a team of six student volunteers in organizing Sustainable Consumption and Research Action Initiative (SCORAI) Conference at Clark University  
Worked with convocation staff for the Clark University graduations

## **OTHER SKILLS**

Languages: Japanese (Conversational. Studied for one year in Japan)  
French (Proficient. Completed Diploma of French Language offered by Alliance Française, Paris)  
Sinhalese (Native fluency)

Computers: MS Office (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook); Statistical software (STATA 14, E Views 9); Spatial software (ArcGIS 10.3, IDRISI Selva 17, GeoDa 1.6)

International Experience: Academic study in Ghana, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Resided with a family in Japan.  
Independent student travel to UK, Singapore, South Korea and India.

## REFERENCES

Prof. Marc Rockmore  
Economics Department  
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Prof. Wayne Gray  
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Page Endowed Chair in Applied Economics  
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