

Sachintha Fernando

PHD CANDIDATE IN ECONOMICS

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RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary	Environmental Economics, Applied Econometrics
Secondary	Open Science, Subjective Well-being

EDUCATION

2021 – present	PhD in ECONOMICS, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg , Germany Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Christoph Wunder & Prof. Dr. Amelie Wuppermann
2017	MA in ECONOMICS, Uppsala University , Sweden
2014	BBA in BUSINESS ECONOMICS, University of Colombo , Sri Lanka
2011	Exchange semester, La Trobe University , Australia

RESEARCH VISITS

Oct – Dec 2025	Research stay at Warwick University , UK Host: Prof. Andrew Oswald
May 2025	Research stay at University of Graz , Austria & Wegener Center for Global and Climate Change , Austria Host: Prof. Hans Manner

AFFILIATIONS

2026 – present	Associated PhD Student, ECO-N RESEARCH GROUP , Leipzig
2024 – present	Add-on Fellow, Joachim Herz Stiftung
2023 – present	Member, Berlin Network on Research on Well-being
2020 – present	Research Affiliate, Vérité Research , Sri Lanka

PUBLICATIONS

Zero Fare, Cleaner Air? The Causal Effect of Luxembourg's Free Public Transportation Policy on Transport Emissions (2026) (with Tobias Eibinger) *Environmental and Resource Economics* [\[link\]](#)

Media coverage: *The Economist*; *Verdens Bedste Nyheder*

Rising Waters, Falling Well-being: The Effects of the 2013 East German Flood on Subjective Well-being (accepted) (with Katharina Kolb and Christoph Wunder) *Environmental and Resource Economics* [\[link\]](#)

WORKING PAPERS

Navigating the Energy Transition: The Impacts of Germany's 2020 Coal Phase-Out Legislation on Macro-Level Worries (with Yasmine Bakr and Christoph Wunder) - R&R *Social Indicators Research*

Are the Effects of Finland's Carbon Tax on Transport Emissions Robust to Donor Pool Composition? (2026) *I4R Discussion Paper No. 317* [\[link\]](#)

Interpolation Bias in Synthetic Controls: Evidence from Carbon Tax Evaluations

The Environmental Effectiveness of Carbon Taxes: A Comparative Case Study of the Nordic Experience (2019)
World Bank Working Paper Series [\[link\]](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Finite Pool of Worries and Climate Change Concerns

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Sri Lanka's Reversal on Gender Parity: From Global Leader to Global Outlier (2025), Op-Ed, *Daily Mirror* (available [online](#))

Reducing the Gap in Understanding Sri Lanka's Gender Gap (2021), *Vérité Research Insight* (available [online](#))

The Gap between Policy and Practice: A Review of Data Dissemination Practices of Sri Lanka's Department of Census and Statistics (2021), *Vérité Research Policy Note* (available [online](#))

Insights for Mitigating Corruption: Summary Findings (2020), *Vérité Research Policy Note* (available [online](#))

Natural Disaster Insurance Coverage: Solving the Lethargy of Language Policy will Help SMEs Island-wide (2018), *Vérité Research Policy Note* (available [online](#))

Sri Lanka's Economic Competitiveness: A Microcosm of its Politics? (2018), *Vérité Research Insight* (available [online](#))

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, **Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg**

Bachelor	Statistics I (SS 2021, 2025)
	Statistics II (WS 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2026/27)
	Introductory Econometrics (SS 2022)
Master	Applied Microeconometrics (WS 2022/23, 2023/24, 2025/26, 2026/27)
	Causal Inference (SS 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)
	Seminar in Econometrics (WS 2024/25)

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 RPTU Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- 2025 Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre (UK), University of Graz (Austria)
- 2024 Wageningen University (Netherlands)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Upcoming* Leibniz Open Science Day – Nov (Berlin), Econometric Society European Meeting – Dec (Warsaw)
- 2026 AURÖ Workshop for Young Researchers on Environmental and Resource Economics (Leipzig), Scottish Economic Association Annual Conference (Glasgow), EMCC Climate Econometrics Workshop (Aalborg), Verein für Socialpolitik Annual Conference (Innsbruck), Connecting Biodiversity, Climate and Human Behavior (Leipzig)
- 2025 BeWell Workshop (Berlin), Frontiers in Causal Inference and Machine Learning (Lucca), ISQOLS Annual Conference (Luxembourg), 8th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Economic Sciences (Lindau)
- 2024 AURÖ Workshop for Young Researchers on Environmental and Resource Economics (Karlsruhe), Mapping the Effects of Environmental Policies (Hamburg), 6th Applied Economics Workshop (Hannover), What Works Climate Solutions Summit (Berlin), 29th Annual EAERE Conference (Leuven), AERNA Conference (Portugal), Leibniz Open Science Day (Berlin)

- 2023 28th Annual EAERE Conference (Cyprus), 24th Global Conference on Environmental Taxation (Paris)
- 2022 9th CGDE Doctoral Workshop (online), STATEC Well-being Conference (Luxembourg), Environmental Protection and Sustainability Forum (Graz)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2026 **Best Poster Award**, Connecting Biodiversity, Climate and Human Behavior, Leipzig
- 2025 Selected participant, **8th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Economic Sciences**
- 2025 **insitu Alumni Association Award** (with Katharina Kolb) to organise a PhD workshop
- 2024 **Joachim Herz Stiftung Add-on Fellowship**
- 2024 **DAAD STIBET Award**, MLU Halle, for academic achievement and community contribution
- 2024 **Best Paper Award**, 6th Applied Economics Workshop, Hannover
- 2023, 2024, 2026 **Women's Advancement Grant**, MLU Halle, for conference participation
- 2015 – 2017 **Uppsala University IPK Full Tuition Scholarship**
- 2013 **C.T.C. Gold Medal for Organisational Behaviour**, University of Colombo
- 2011 **Australian Department of Education Scholarship**, La Trobe University
- 2011 **Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence**, La Trobe University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Refereeing Journal of Happiness Studies, Social Indicators Research, Journal of South Asian Development
- 2022 – present **Coordinator**, Admissions Committee, M.Sc. Economics, MLU Halle
- 2025 **Co-organiser**, **WEM-Halle**: PhD Workshop on Empirical Microeconomics, Halle
- 2025 **Co-organiser**, CGDE Course on Causal Machine Learning (Martin Huber), Halle
- 2024 – 2025 **Member**, MLU Sustainability Group
Quantified CO₂ emissions from air travel and developed more sustainable business-travel practices

SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- 2026 An Economic Approach to Survey-Based Measurement of Well-Being, DIW Graduate Center, Berlin (Daniel Benjamin)
- 2026 Tinbergen Institute Econometrics Lectures, Rotterdam (Alberto Abadie)
- 2025 Environmental Data Collection and Analysis for the Social Sciences, E4C Summer School, Paris
- 2025 Causal Machine Learning, CGDE, Halle (Martin Huber)
- 2024 Climate Evidence Accelerator: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis, MCC Berlin
- 2024 Codechella Madrid: Workshop on Causal Inference (Scott Cunningham)
- 2024 Environmental Economics, CGDE, Jena (Till Requate)
- 2023 5th Advanced Summer School in Economics: Causal Inference, Spetses (Jeffrey Wooldridge)
- 2020 Evaluating Social Programs, MITx (edX)
- 2019 International Visitor Leadership Program on Women's Global Development and Prosperity, U.S. Department of State

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – 2020 **Team Leader, Economics, Vérité Research**, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Led quantitative and qualitative research on economic and social issues in Sri Lanka, including survey design and analysis of survey and administrative data
 - Managed research projects end to end for clients including USAID, UNICEF, UNDP, ECO-RYS and CIPE
 - Led the economics team: recruitment, performance evaluation, budgeting and staff development
 - Wrote grant proposals and concept notes; reviewed and edited policy notes, briefs and reports
- 2013 – 2015 **Senior Executive, Sustainability, John Keells Holdings**, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Implemented sustainability standards and conducted environmental audits across the leisure inbound sector and its suppliers
 - Managed GRI reporting and ISO 9001, ISO 14001, Carbon Neutral and TourCert certifications
 - Employee of the Year, John Keells Leisure Inbound Sector, 2014

MISCELLANEOUS

Software STATA, R, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office
Languages Sinhalese (native), English (native), German (B1)

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Christoph Wunder	Prof. Dr. Amelie Wuppermann
Chair of Econometrics and Empirical Research	Chair of Public Finance
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