

A. NILESH FERNANDO

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EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA Ph.D. Public Policy (Fields: Labor and Development Economics) Thesis: “ <i>Land, Labor, and Technology: Essays in Development Economics</i> ”	2010-2015
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, OXFORD, UK Graduate-level coursework in Mathematics and Economics	2009-2010
HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE, AMHERST, MA B.A. Mathematics and Economics, Minor: Public Policy	2003-2007

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, NOTRE DAME, IN Assistant Professor, Department of Economics Concurrent Assistant Professor, Keough School of Global Affairs	2016-PRESENT
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, IL Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics	2019-2020
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics	2015-2016

AFFILIATIONS

BUILDING INCLUSIVE GROWTH (BIG) LAB, NOTRE DAME, IN Faculty Affiliate	2023-PRESENT
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB (J-PAL), CAMBRIDGE, MA Faculty Affiliate	2022-PRESENT
PULTE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, NOTRE DAME, IN Faculty Affiliate	2019-PRESENT
VERITÉ RESEARCH, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA Research Affiliate	2017-PRESENT
KELLOGG INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, NOTRE DAME, IN Faculty Affiliate	2016-PRESENT
LIU INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND ASIAN STUDIES, NOTRE DAME, IN Faculty Affiliate	2016-PRESENT
PRECISION DEVELOPMENT (PxD), CAMBRIDGE, MA Research Affiliate	2015-PRESENT

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

<i>Research Assistant</i> , Evidence for Policy Design, Harvard Kennedy School	2014
<i>Research Associate</i> , Centre for Micro Finance/MIT-Poverty Action Lab, India	2008-2009
<i>Research Associate</i> , Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA	2007-2008

PUBLICATIONS

7. “Peer Pressure and Discrimination: Evidence from International Cricket,” with Siddharth Eapen George, Forthcoming in *The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*.
6. “Hiring Frictions and the Promise of Online Job Portals: Evidence from India,” with Niharika Singh, and Gabriel Tourek, *American Economic Review-Insights*, Volume 5, Issue 4, December, 2023.
5. “Shackled to the Soil? Inherited Land, Birth Order, and Labor Mobility,” *The Journal of Human Resources*, Volume 57, Issue 2, Spring, 2022.
4. “Understanding Adverse Outcomes in Gulf Migration: Evidence from Administrative Data from Sri Lanka,” with Alison Lodermeier, *International Migration Review*, Volume 56, Issue 1, 2022.
3. “Seeking Treatment: The Impact of Mobile Extension on Information Exchange among Farmers,” *The Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 153, November, 2021.
2. “Mobile’izing Agricultural Advice: Technology Adoption, Diffusion, and Sustainability,” with Shawn Cole, *The Economic Journal*, Volume 131, Issue 633, January, 2021.
1. “Field Comparisons of Incentive-Compatible Preference Elicitation Techniques,” with Shawn Cole, Daniel Stein, and Jeremy Tobacman, *The Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Volume 172, April, 2020.

WORKING PAPERS

8. “Regulation by Reputation? Quality Revelation of Labor Intermediaries in International Migration,” with Niharika Singh, *Revise & re-submit*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.
9. “Present Mothers, Absent Children? The Effects of Migration Restrictions in Sri Lanka,” with Alison Lodermeier and Paul Shaloka.
10. “How Does Information about Local Labor Market Conditions Shape Search and Employment? Experimental Evidence from India,” with Niharika Singh.
11. “Agricultural Extension, Technology Adoption, and Information Spillovers: Evidence from a Cluster Randomized Experiment,” with Shawn Cole, Raissa Fabregas, and Hee Kwon Seo.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UG - Undergraduate; G - Graduate

University of Notre Dame

2016-PRESENT

ECON 30331 - Econometrics (UG)

ECON 70572 - Microeconomic Development II: Market Failures (G)

ECON 70562 - Advanced Topics in Economic Development (G)

ECON 33811 - Describing an Unequal World: Introduction to Development Economics (UG)

ECON 43810 - Explaining an Unequal World: Empirical Methods in Development (UG)

Harvard University

2010-2015

Exec Ed - Re-thinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice (G)

Economics 1393 - Poverty and Development, Department of Economics (UG)

ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate Theses:

Grace Hatfield (ND '24)

James Mancini (ND '23), *BonAnno* Thesis Prize

Elena Esteve (ND '21)

Alison Lodermeier (ND '17), *BonAnno* Honorable mention

Adam Ramos (ND '17)

Daniel Martin (ND '16), *BonAnno* Thesis Prize

Christian Kamm (ND '16)

Doctoral Theses:

Paul Shaloka (ND '23)

Linh Nguyen (ND '20)

Placement

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Bates College

Research Assistants/Pre-Doctoral Fellows:

Renee Yaseen (ND '22)

Mika Inoue (ND '20)

Mehak Siddiquei (ND MGA '18)

Alison Lodermeier (ND '17)

Sharvari Ravishankar (2020-22)

Samiskshya Siwakoti (2019-20)

Pankhuri Jha (2018-19)

Thashiya Nauki (2018-19)

Placement

Washington Post Op-Ed Columnist

University of Michigan Economics Ph.D.

Acacia Center for Justice

Brown University Economics Ph.D.

JPAL Policy Analyst

Columbia University M.A.

Harvard Kennedy School MPAID

Verité Research

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Total Funding Raised: \$941,120

External Research Funding: \$614,283

Department of Economics Teaching Award, University of Notre Dame (x5) 2016-23

Building Inclusive Growth (BIG) Lab, Research Grant 2022

Kellogg Institute, Working Group Grant, University of Notre Dame (x3) 2021-23

Kellogg Institute, Research Grant, University of Notre Dame (x8) 2018-22

Provost's Resilience & Recovery Fund, University of Notre Dame 2021

SGB Evidence Fund, International Growth Centre 2020

ATAI Research Grant, MIT, co-PI with S. George, W. Brooks, & K. Donovan 2019*

Ford Family Grant, University of Notre Dame (x2) 2018, 2019

RSP Regular Faculty Grant, Notre Dame Research 2018

Research Grant, World Bank Research Group	2015, 2018
ISLA, Small Grants, University of Notre Dame (x3)	2017, 2018, 2019
ISLA, Large Grant, University of Notre Dame	2018
Luksburg Foundation Grant, University of Notre Dame	2017
JPAL Urban Services Initiative, MIT, co-PI with N. Singh, & G. Tourek	2016
Research Grant, Weiss Family Fund for Development, co-PI with N. Singh	2015
Research Grant, Sustainability Science Program, Harvard Kennedy School	2014
Sustainability Science Doctoral Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School	2013-2014
USAID-Development Innovation Ventures, co-PI with S. Cole	2013
Norberg-Bohm Doctoral Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School	2012-2013
Agriculture Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI), MIT, co-PI with S. Cole	2012
Harvard Kennedy School Graduate Fellowship	2010-2012
Full Tuition Grant, Hampshire College	2003-2007

* - grant awarded but turned down

SEMINARS

2021-2023: Northwestern Economics Seminar, World Bank/LISER Conference on Migration, UCSD Economics Seminar, ISI-Delhi, Boston University Economics Seminar, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, CEPR-Misum-SITE Development Economics Conference, UT-Austin Economics Seminar, KDI-World Bank Conference, Harvard University (Growth Lab), Kellogg Institute Panel on COVID & Poverty, ND-ITAM Development Conference, Warwick Economics Seminar*, Western Michigan University*

< 2021: Michigan Economics Seminar, IUPUI Economics Seminar, Amherst College Economics Seminar, Hampshire College, ND Mini-Conference, Development Day (Chicago), UIUC Economics Seminar, PACDEV, Northwestern Development Seminar, Y-RISE, H2D2 (Michigan), NEUDC (Tufts), APPAM, ND-PUC Development Conference, Johns Hopkins (SAIS), PACDEV-USC, NEUDC (MIT), NBER-Digitization (Stanford), MWIEDC (Wisconsin), Ministry of Planning (Sri Lanka), Verité Research (Sri Lanka), Mathematica Research, Georgetown-SFS, World Bank Research Group, University of Notre Dame, NBER-SI: Productivity, Development, and Entrepreneurship

* - planned

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Seminars & Conferences: ND-ITAM Conference on Development Economics (2023), New Frontiers in Development Lecture Series (2019, 2023), ND-PUC Conference in Development Economics (Chile, 2018), Co-organizer of ND Development Economics Working Group (2016-2019, 2022-Present), Co-organized ND Mini-Conference in Development Economics (2017, 2018)

Referee Service: *Agricultural Economics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review-Insights*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Environment and Development Economics*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Politics*, *Quantitative Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *PLOS ONE*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *World Development*

Grant Review: USAID-DIV (Agriculture/Development), 3ie, DAISI, SGB Evidence Fund, Kellogg Institute Grants Committee

OTHER

Languages: English, Sinhalese, Spanish (Basic), Hindi (Basic)

Citizenship: Sri Lanka, US

Last updated: January 19, 2024