

# Anusha Illukkumbura

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Work Authorization: U.S. Permanent Resident (Green Card)

## EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Economics (STEM)**  
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL Aug 2022 – May 2026
- **M.Sc. in Business Statistics**  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka Aug 2016 – Sept 2019
- **B.A. in Social Statistics**  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka May 2007 – Dec 2011

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL** Aug 2022 – Present

Instructor of Record & Teaching Assistant

Instructor of Record – Introduction to Microeconomics; History & Philosophy of the World’s Economics

- Designed and delivered course content for classes of 30 + students, including lectures, problem sets, and exams.
- Analyzed student performance data to identify learning gaps and adjusted teaching methods, improving pass rates and engagement (e.g., higher average scores and reduced failure/withdrawal rates).
- Created datasets, exercises, and examples using real-world economic and business data to build students’ applied analytics skills.

Teaching Assistant – International Trade and Finance; Introduction to Applied Econometrics; Introduction to Microeconomics; Financial Economics

- Mentored 10+ students in empirical research, teaching them how to clean, analyze, and visualize data using R and STATA.
- Supported grading and feedback for 100+ students per term, using structured rubrics to ensure consistency and fairness.

**Small Enterprises Development Division, Sri Lanka Government Services** Feb 2018–Aug 2022

Entrepreneurship Development Training Officer

- Performed monthly sales and market analysis for 30+ companies, using Excel and statistical tools to identify revenue trends, product performance, and customer segments.
- Generated insights that informed pricing, product mix, and market expansion decisions for micro and small businesses.
- Delivered training to 200+ entrepreneurs annually on business planning, budgeting, and financial management, enabling participants to improve record-keeping and financial discipline.
- Provided one-on-one consulting to 30+ micro and small businesses per year, supporting market entry decisions, revenue growth strategies, and cost control initiatives.

**Department of National Community Water Supply, Sri Lanka Government Services** Jan 2016–Feb 2018

Development Officer

- Managed payroll activities for 400+ employees, ensuring accurate and timely salary processing under government regulations.

**Tech Mahindra Ltd., Hyderabad, India**

Feb 2013–Feb 2015

AIIESEC Global Intern

- Coordinated two global diversity and inclusion projects, including survey design, data collection, and analysis across multiple countries.
- Conducted benchmarking and prepared reports for HR leadership, informing policy updates and

alignment with local regulations.

- Contributed to HR policy design to standardize practices while adapting to regional legal frameworks and business needs.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**Programming & Statistics:** Python, R, STATA, EViews, SPSS, SQL

**Data & Visualization:** Power BI, Tableau, Advanced Excel

**Econometrics & Analytics:** Time series (GARCH, VAR, VECM, ARDL), panel data (PPML), causal inference (DiD, IV, RDD), multivariate analysis, hypothesis testing, cost-benefit analysis

**Tools & Productivity:** AI/LLM tools (ChatGPT, Claude) for research assistance, coding support, and reporting automation

## **RESEARCH & ANALYTICAL PROJECTS**

Doctoral Dissertation Research – Economics

Southern Illinois University

2023 – Present

- Project: Three Essays on COVID-19 Government Health Policy Responses and Global Bilateral Trade
- Built and estimated panel data models (PPML HDFE) to quantify the impact of government COVID-19 policies on international trade flows.
- Collected, cleaned, and merged large-scale international trade and policy datasets, ensuring data quality and consistency.

Graduate Coursework Projects – Southern Illinois University

2022 – 2024

- Macroeconomics: Assessed deviations from Purchasing Power Parity using exchange rate and price index data; applied ARCH/GARCH/TARCH models to analyze exchange rate volatility.
- Monetary Economics: Modeled the impact of key macroeconomic variables on trade balance using ECM, Granger causality tests, and CUSUM stability analysis.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- [Identifying Factors Affecting Inflation Rate in U.S under Different Scenarios](#), Sri Lankan Journal of Banking and Finance (SLJBF), 4 (1), 2021. Methods: VECM 2021
- Author of the [Easy Statistics Series](#), a collection of independently published textbooks available on Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) - 5,500+ units sold 2020 -2024

## **CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

- 62nd Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO. Oct 2025
- Department of Economics, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. Oct 2025

## **LANGUAGES**

English (Fluent), Sinhala (Native)

## **REFERENCES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Kevin Sylwester, Ph.D.	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	<a href="mailto:ksylwest@siu.edu">ksylwest@siu.edu</a>	618-453-1421
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