

Current as of November. 2024

NADEEKA D. K. WEERASEKARA  
*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*  
Western Rural Development Center, University of Idaho-Boise  
(208) 284-9554, [nadeeka@uidaho.edu](mailto:nadeeka@uidaho.edu)

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Applied Economics. 2022.** Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR  
**M.Sc., Agricultural Economics. 2017.** University of Nebraska - Lincoln, NE  
**B.Sc., Agriculture. 2014.** Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Rural and community development, Social capital, Entrepreneurship, Poverty, Food systems and development, Behavioral and experimental economics, Applied Econometrics.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral Fellow** – Western Rural Development Center (WRDC), University of Idaho (Since May 2024)  
**Postdoctoral Fellow** – Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho (since April 2023-April 2024)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### Teaching:

*Instructor, Oregon State University, USA*

AEC 250 – Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy (Summer 2021-Ecampus)

AEC 221 - Agricultural Marketing and Policy (Spring 2021-Ecampus)

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, Oregon State University, USA*

AEC 513 - Microeconomic Theory II (Fall 2019, 2020) For Dr. Nadia Streletskaya

AEC 512 - Microeconomic Theory I (Fall 2020) For Prof. Junjie Wu

AEC 221 - Agricultural Marketing and Policy (Spring 2019, 2020, 2021) For Dr. Nadia Streletskaya

AEC 311- Intermediate Applied Econ I (Winter 2019) For Dr. Nadia Streletskaya

AEC 311- Intermediate Applied Econ I (Winter 2020, 2021) For Dr. Jeff Reimer

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA*

AECN 265 - Environment and Resource Economics I (Spring 2016) For Dr. Simanti Banerjee

### Research:

*Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University, USA*

For Dr. Nadia Streletskaya; (Fall 2017 - Fall 2018)

For Prof. Jennifer Alix-Garcia (Summer 2019)

*Graduate Research Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA*

For Dr. Simanti Banerjee (Fall 2015 - Spring 2017)

*Student Mentor, University of Idaho*

Sunita Pahari, graduate (MSc), 2023-2024

*Student Mentor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA*

Wang Yinrou, undergraduate, summer research program 2016

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

- Weerasekara, N. D. K.** and Streletskaia, N. (2024). Tasting and consumer demand for wine: do peers and experts matter?. *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 53(1), 66-86.
- Streletskaia, N., **Weerasekara, N. D. K.** and Li, J. (2023). The Impact of Outside Option Saliency and Product Descriptions on Consumer Tasting Behavior. *Journal of Wine Economics*, 18(2), 139-155.
- Banerjee, S., Mukherjee, Z. and **Weerasekara, N. D. K.** (2016). Understanding the Economic Characteristics of a Developing Country Marine Fishery— A Case Study of the Digha-Shankarpur Fishery in Eastern India. *Cornhusker Economics*, Sep. 21, 2016.
- Weerasekara, N. D. K.**, Jayasinghe-Mudalige, U. K., Ikram, S. M. M., Udugama, J. M. M., Edirisinghe, J. C. and Herath, H. M. L. K. (2014). Firms' Responsive Towards Quality Management in Bottled Drinking Water Manufacturing Industry in Sri Lanka. *Sri Lanka Journal of Economic Research*, 2(1), 67 - 78.

### Working papers

- Weerasekara, N. D. K.**, Lewin, P. and Fisher, M. Impact of family health on the monetary success of the entrepreneur: entrepreneur-spouse-child interdependence (under review: Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice).
- Weerasekara, N. D. K.** and Lewin, P. Labor market marginalization: family health and access to health care (under review: Population Research and Policy Review).
- Weerasekara, N. D. K.** and Lewin, P. Economic resilience of minority businesses to uncertain shocks.
- Weerasekara, N. D. K.** and Lewin, P. Do safety nets resolve poverty in the United States?.

### Conference presentations – Peer Reviewed

- *North American Regional Science Council annual conference 2024*, Nov. 13-16, New Orleans, Louisiana. “Economic resilience of minority businesses to uncertain shocks”- Oral Presentation
- *Southern Regional Science Association annual conference 2024*, April 4-6, Washington DC. “ Marginalization of labor force with poor family health: insights from the US labor force”- Oral Presentation
- *Western Regional Science Association annual conference 2024*, Feb. 11-14, Monterey, California. “Family health on the monetary success of the entrepreneur: entrepreneur-spouse-child interdependence (Findings from a sensitivity analysis) - Oral Presentation
- *Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting 2019*, July 21-23, Atlanta, Georgia. “Wine tasting: consumer preferences for wine, choice, and sensory information” – Poster
- *Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop 2016*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. “Do regulations on fishery resource management affect spatial competition among processors” – Poster
- *Summer Research Symposium 2016*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Economics of Fishing: An Application to Eastern India” – Poster
- *2<sup>nd</sup> International Economic Research Conference 2013*, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya. “Food Safety Responsiveness of Bottled Water Manufacturers: An Empirical Investigation” – Oral Presentation
- *12<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Research Symposium 2013*, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Makandura, Gonawila. “Constraints and Incentives for Bottled Drinking Water Manufacturing Firms in Sri Lanka to adopt HACCP Food Safety and Quality Metasystem-A Discriminant Analysis” – Oral Presentation

### Abstracts

- Weerasekara, N. D. K.** (2013). Risk Management in Agribusiness, *proceedings of 8<sup>th</sup>In-Plant Training Symposium*, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Makandura, Gonawila, 53-54.

### Projects

- Experimenter for the project “Towards Successful Fundraising Campaigns: Social Networks and their Role in Threshold Public Goods Games” under the supervision of Dr. Simanti Banerjee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## Grants

PI: Lewin, P. Co-PIs: Weerasekara, N.; Mindes, S.; Jimber, J.; and Smyer, A. “Ensuring Digital Access for Rural Residents and Underserved Populations”, *United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program*. 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2028. \$650,000

PI: Wornell, E. Co-PIs: Lewin, P.; Fisher, M.; Weber, B.; Weerasekara, N. Making ends meet: The role of community assets in the livelihood strategies of low-income rural households. *United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Program*. 05/15/2019 - 05/14/2025. \$500,000.

## **OUTREACH**

*Policy Briefs*: “Conflict in Family Health, Employment Choices, & Eligibility to Healthcare” – to be published on the WRDC’s website

*Resource guides*: “Grant Writing - Tips for Success”- developing for the WRDC’s website

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Lab manager, Applied Experimental Economics Lab (AEELab), Oregon State University (since August 2018-June 2022)
- Treasurer, Agri Econ Graduate Student Association, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (since 2016-2017)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

- Speaker at the Idaho Rural Success Summit representing the Western Rural Development Center (May, 2024; Fort Hall, Idaho)
- Reviewer for: *Journal of Business Economics* (2023)
- Reviewer for: AAEA annual meeting abstracts (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Member of: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
- Co-coordinator, 9<sup>th</sup> In-Plant Training Symposium (2014), Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
- Member, logistic committee, Agriculture Research Symposium (2013), Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
- Member, publication committee, In-plant Training Symposium (2013), Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

*Assistant Lecturer*, Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (May 2014 to May 2015)

*Internship Trainee*, CIC Agri Businesses (Pvt.) Ltd., Kandy, Sri Lanka (since October 2013 to February 2014)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- International Student Continuation Scholarship by the Oregon State University for the 21-22 academic year
- Graduate research/teaching assistantship awarded by the Oregon State University, USA, 2017 Fall
- Graduate research assistantship awarded by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA, 2015 Fall
- Excellence at G.C.E. Advanced level examination (2008) – Swarnamali Girls’ School, Sri Lanka
- Best project award at the competition organized by the Sri Lanka Environment conservation organization (2001)

## **OTHER**

Languages: Sinhala (Native speaker), English

Citizenship: Sri Lanka

Computer skills: STATA, Qualtrics, working knowledge of Z-Tree, Mouse-tracker

Other Skills: Econometric Modelling, Experimental design and conducting, Survey design, Choice experiments