

VIDHURA S.B.W. TENNEKON

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Contact Information

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Personal Information

Citizenship: United States

Date available : June 16, 2013.

Education

- **Ph.D** in Economics, School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University, 2012. (GPA: 3.75/4.00). Committee Chairs: Dr. Robert Rosenman and Dr. Ron Mittelhammer (Joint)
Dissertation: *Topics in Health Econometrics*.
- **M.Sc.** in Economics and Econometrics (with Distinction), School of Economics, The University of Nottingham, 2006, Advisor: Dr. Richard Upward.
Dissertation: *Evaluating the Labour Market Outcomes of Smoking Using Matching Estimators*.
- **M.B.A.**, The Faculty of Graduate Studies, The University of Colombo, 2001.
- **B.Sc.Eng.** in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, The University of Peradeniya, 1996.

Current Employment

September 2012- Present

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,
Eastern Washington University.

Employment History

January 2009- June 2012	Research /Teaching Assistant, School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University.
August 2006-August 2008	Economist (Head of Money and Banking Division), Economic Research Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
February 2003-September 2005	Assistant Director (Head of Payments Systems Policy and Oversight Division), Payments and Settlements Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
August 2002-February 2003	Engineer (Head of Quality of Service Measurements Division and the International Switching Center), Sri Lanka Telecom.
January 1997-August 2002	Technical Director, Advanced Business Automation Systems (Sri Lanka) and Advanced Business Automation Systems (Bangladesh).
October 1995-December 1996	Systems and Software Engineer, OpenArc Systems Management, Sri Lanka.

Industry experience

Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Central Bank of Sri Lanka is the monetary authority of Sri Lanka which has the responsibility for price stability and financial stability of the country. It also has the regulatory authority over Banks and other financial institutes, Payments systems service providers and Foreign exchange service providers.

Head of the Money and Banking Division, Economic Research Department (August 2006-August 2008)

Head of the Money and Banking Division is a non-voting member of the Monetary Policy Committee that makes monetary policy decisions. The division collects and compiles all monetary statistics, prepares the Monetary and Financial Program for the country and ensures its implementation, conducts relevant research and makes initial suggestions on monetary policy to be approved by the Monetary Policy Committee. I assumed the responsibilities of this position at a time when the inflation was at a historical peak and initiated stabilization policies including several ad hoc approaches.

Head of the Payment Systems Policy Division, Payments and Settlements Department (September 2003-September 2005)

I was responsible for the oversight of the country's payment system which included the Real Time Gross Settlement System, Sri Lanka Interbank Payments System (for small value retail payments), Check clearing systems and electronic card operations (credit, debit and pre-paid

cards). I also involved in drafting the Payments Systems Red Book published by the BIS and initiating a payments systems policy for the country. The Division was also responsible for collecting and compiling payments systems related data and publishing the quarterly Payments Bulletin.

Assistant Director, Payments and Settlements Department (February 2003-September 2003)

I joined the Bank to take lead in the implementation of a Real Time Gross Settlement System for settling setting large value interbank payments which went live in September 2003. My role involved coordinating between the software vendor (Logica, UK), communication service providers (SWIFT, Sri Lanka Telecom), other Departments of the Bank (IT, Finance), participants of the system (Commercial Banks and Securities Dealers); providing technical inputs to ensure smooth integration of the system with other existing systems and training the system operators.

Sri Lanka Telecom

Sri Lanka Telecom is the largest telecommunication services provider and the largest public quoted company in Sri Lanka with over 10,000 employees. In 2002, few years after deregulation, SLT still enjoyed a near monopoly in international voice communications but was facing a fierce competition both from other emerging service providers providing fixed band width services as well as from IP-based voice communication service providers.

Engineer – International Switching Center & Quality of Services Measurements Unit (August 2002-December 2003)

I was in charge of two separate units operated under the International Division. The International Switching Center was responsible for the swift maintenance of telecommunication switches used for international voice communications including 24x7 real-time monitoring, breakdown maintenance, modification of routings as required and expansions. The Quality of Services Measurements Unit was responsible for collecting and analyzing traffic data, identify bottlenecks and redundancies and suggesting route modifications so that the switching circuits are utilized in an optimal manner. During my tenure there, I developed a software application using Visual Basic and Microsoft Access to read traffic data directly from switches, analyze data and prepare required reports automatically.

Advanced Business Automation Systems (Pvt) Ltd

Technical Director (January 1997-August 2002)

I joined ABAS as a freelance programmer in 1996 when the company was established and moved there to work fulltime in 1997. The company had only 5 fulltime employees at that time but grew faster to employ over 30 people (mostly engineers, technicians and software developers) by 2001. The company served a niche in the country and provided customized hardware integrated software solutions using a portfolio of software and hardware products including barcode products, biometric security products, surveillance systems, access control systems, time and attendance tracking systems, production monitoring systems, portable data collectors, digital display boards and plastic ID cards. Software was written using various programming languages including C++, Visual Basic, dBase, FoxPro and various machine languages for RS-232 communication. I was in charge of the technical and customer support

operations of the company. In 2001, I initiated expanding the operations of the company to Bangladesh but it was not a financial success.

OpenArc Systems Management (Pvt) Ltd

Software Engineer (October 1995-December 1996)

OpenArc Systems Management is a software development company in Sri Lanka, specialized in software for Banking and Financial industries. In 1995, this company -then 4-years old- employed over 50 software developers and was the market leader in providing software for stock broking firms in Sri Lanka and was investing in developing a comprehensive software application package for Investment Banks including separable modules for stock broking, leasing and hire purchase, Treasury bill management, margin trading, commercial credit etc. The application was developed using Progress 4GL one of the few graphics-based development tools available at that time and Progress RDBMS which was an open-architecture relational database. I started my carrier at the OpenArc as a team member of the Treasury bill module and later promoted as the Team Leader/Manager of the Stock Broking module. By the time I left OpenArc I was working as the Quality Assurance Manager overlooking all software modules.

Teaching Experience

Eastern Washington University, Department of Economics:

Econ 200 Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Spring 2013
Econ 201 Introduction to Macroeconomics	Fall 2012
Econ 405 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	Winter 2013
Econ 444 Money and Banking	Fall 2012, Spring 2013
Econ 474 International Finance	Spring 2013

Washington State University, School of Economic Sciences:

EconS 320 Money and Banking	Summer 2011, Lead Instructor
EconS 513 Advanced Econometrics	Spring 2012, Teaching Assistant
EconS 510 Statistics for Economists	Fall 2011, Teaching Assistant
EconS 529 Research Methods	Fall 2011, Teaching Assistant
EconS 490 Economic Capstone	Spring 2009, Teaching Assistant
EconS 301 Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2009, Teaching Assistant

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, Department of Town and Country Planning:

TP 5201 Development Economics

2007, Visiting Lecturer

Diploma programs:

Center for Banking Studies, Sri Lanka

2006-07, Visiting Lecturer

Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka

2007-08, Visiting Lecturer

OpenArc School of Business and Technology

1996, Visiting Lecturer

Publications, refereed

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (2013). "Behold, a Virgin is with HIV !": Misreporting Sexual Behaviour Among Infected Adolescents. (forthcoming in *Health Economics*) DOI: 10.1002/hec.2918.

Hill, L. G., Rosenman, R., **Tennekoon, V.,** & Mandal, B. (2013). Selection Effects and Prevention Program Outcomes. (forthcoming in *Prevention Science*) DOI: 10.1007/s11121-012-0342-x Print ISSN: 1389-4986 Online ISSN: 1573-6695

Rosenman, R., **Tennekoon, V.,** & Hill, L.G (2011). Measuring Bias in Self-Reported Data. *International Journal of Behavioural and Healthcare Research* **2(4)**: 320-332. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1504/IJBHR.2011.043414>.

Media: "Avoiding Bias in Medical Research" Science Daily (October 17, 2011), Wordpress (October 18, 2011), Medical News Today (October 19, 2011) etc.

Publications, non-refereed

Yatigammana, R., **Tennekoon, V.S.B.W.** & Thenuwara, H.W. (2009). *Representative Consumer Price Index for Sri Lanka: Lessons from India*. ISSN 1391-3832. Colombo: Central Bank of Sri Lanka. (Printed copies are available at major US libraries.)

Bank for International Settlements (2004). Payment System in Sri Lanka. ISBN 92-9131-674-1 (print) ISBN 92-9197-674-1 (online) -Member of the editorial committee.

Unpublished working papers

Tennekoon, V. & Rosenman, R. (2012). Bias in Measuring Smoking Behavior (Under review).

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (2011). Systematically Misclassified Binary Dependent Variables. (SES Working Paper 2011-09, Under review)

Tennekoon, V. (2011). Categorization Bias, Likert Scales and Program Evaluation.

Mittlehammer, R. C., Rosenman, R., & **Tennekoon, V.** (2011). Modeling Sequential Self-Selection of Program Adherence. (SES Working Paper 2011-07)

Rosenman, R., Mandal, B., **Tennekoon, V.**, & Hill, L.G. (2010). Estimating treatment effectiveness with sample selection (SES working paper 2010-05).

Tennekoon, V. S. B. W., (2008). Is Sri Lanka ready for the take off? A study on factors of growth and growth potential of Sri Lanka. Central Bank of Sri Lanka working paper.

Tennekoon, V. S. B. W., (2008). An Evaluation of Alternative Measures of Core Inflation for Sri Lanka. Central Bank of Sri Lanka working paper.

Tennekoon, V. S. B. W., (2005). Inter dependencies and intra-day behavior of the participants of LankaSettle: A study on the systemic risk of the RTGS system of Sri Lanka. Central Bank of Sri Lanka working paper.

Presentations at professional conferences, refereed

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (November, 2011). "Behold, a Virgin is with HIV !": Misreporting Sexual Behavior Among Infected Adolescents. 81st Annual Conference of the Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C.

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (September/October, 2011). Treatment Evaluation with a Systematically Misclassified Outcome Variable. 3rd Annual Health Econometrics Workshop (AHEW), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Rosenman, R., **Tennekoon, V.**, & Hill, L.G. (February, 2011). Measurement Invariance and Response Bias: A Stochastic Frontier Approach. 37th Annual Conference of Eastern Economic Association, New York City (Presented by a co-author).

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (February, 2011). Treatment Evaluation with a Systematically Misclassified Outcome Variable. 37th Annual Conference of Eastern Economic Association, New York City (Presented by co-author).

Rosenman, R., Mandal, B., **Tennekoon, V.** & Hill, L.G. (October, 2010). Estimating treatment effectiveness with sample selection. 2nd Annual Health Econometrics Workshop (AHEW), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Presented by a co-author).

Rosenman, R., Mandal, B., **Tennekoon, V.** & Hill, L.G. (July, 2010). Estimating treatment effectiveness with sample selection. European Conference on Health Economics, Helsinki, Finland (Presented by a co-author).

Invited Presentations

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (May, 2012). "Behold, a Virgin is with HIV !": Misreporting Sexual Behavior Among Infected Adolescents. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle.

Tennekoon, V., & Rosenman, R. (January, 2012). Systematically Misclassified Binary Dependent Variables. Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida, Gainesville (Presented by a co-author).

Mittlehammer, R. C., Rosenman, R., & **Tennekoon, V.** (January, 2012). Modeling Sequential Self-Selection of Program Adherence. Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida, Gainesville (Presented by a co-author).

Professional activities (selected)

81st Annual Conference of the Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C. (November 2011) – Presenter and Discussant.

3rd Annual Health Econometrics Workshop (AHEW), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (September/October 2011) – Presenter.

2nd Annual Health Econometrics Workshop (AHEW), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (October 2010) – Presenter.

Inter University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer program workshop on "Secondary Analysis of the National Survey of Parents and Youth", University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (June 2010) – Invited and sponsored attendee

Financial Programming and Policies (6-week residential workshop), International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C. (January-February, 2008) – Invited and sponsored attendee

Compilation Practices of Consumer Price Indices in the Philippines, Study visit to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Statistics Office (May, 2008)

Compilation Practices of Consumer Price Indices in India, Study visit to the Office of the Economic Advisor, the Central Statistics Office and the Labour Bureau (August-September, 2007)

SEACEN-IMF Seminar on Implementing a Balance Sheet Approach to Macroeconomic Surveillance, Ulan Batar, Mongolia (July 2007) – Invited attendee and presenter

Supervision of Payment and Settlements Systems, Sweriges Riksbank, Stockholm, Sweden (June, 2004)

2nd SEACEN-CPSS(BIS) Course on Payment and Settlements Systems and the 2nd Meeting of SEACEN Directors of Payment and Settlement Systems, Manila, Philippines (September, 2003) – Invited attendee and presenter

Awards

- February 2011- School of Economic Sciences Graduate Student Association 2nd Poster Competition, Washington State University, 2nd Prize, \$ 200.
- October 2010 – Travel grant, Graduate and Professional Association, Washington State University, \$ 225.
- June 2010 – Travel grant, Inter University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), \$ 1000.
- August 2008/August 2012 – Central Bank of Sri Lanka Postgraduate Scholarship
- September 2005/August 2006 - Central Bank of Sri Lanka Postgraduate Scholarship
- May 1990/April 1994 – Government of Sri Lanka Mahapola Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies

Committees

School of Economics Sciences, Washington State University:

Member of the Graduate Admission Committee 2011/12.

Government of Sri Lanka

Committee for Revising the Consumer Price Index, 2007/08

Committee for Restructuring the Corporate Debt Market, 2007/08

Committee to Evaluate the Status of Dams and Irrigation Projects, 2004

Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Monetary Policy Committee 2006/08 (Non-voting participant)

Financial Stability Committee 2006/08

Public Debt Committee 2006/08

Payments System Reform Committee 2003/05

University of Peradeniya

Engineering Student Union, 1991/92 (Committee Member)

University Explorers' Club, 1992/93 and 1993/94 (Editor)

Arts Circle, 1991/92 (Committee Member)

Refereeing

Economic Inquiry

Communications in Statistics – Theory and Methods

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (18)

Memberships

- American Economic Association
- Southern Economic Association
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
- Western Economic Association International

References

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