

Professional Experiences

- 08/22–Present **Assistant Professor of Statistics**, Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, USA.
05/22–08/22 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA.
08/17–05/22 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA.
06/16–06/17 **Lecturer**, Department of Mathematics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
01/16–06/16 **Instructor**, Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

EDUCATION

- 2019–2022 **Ph.D. in Mathematics, major in Statistics**, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, USA.
Minors: Computational Mathematics and Applied Mathematics,
Dissertation Title: “Dimension Reduction in Multivariate Time Series via Envelope Methods”,
2017–2019 **M.S. in Mathematics, major in Statistics**, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, USA.
Thesis Title: “Tensor Regression and Tensor Time Series Analyses for High Dimensional Data”.
2011–2015 **B.S. in Statistics and Operations Research**, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
Minors: Mathematics and Computer Science

AWARDS and HONORS

- 25–26 **Harry I. Wolk Research Award**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
2023 **Research Achievement Award**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
2023 **Social Impact Research Award**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
2022 **Dissertation Research Assistantship Award (DRA)**, Southern Illinois University.
2020 **Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award**, Southern Illinois University.
2016 **University Award for Academic Excellence**, University of Peradeniya.
2015 **First Class Honors**, University of Peradeniya.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Time series and econometric models, regression models, dimension reduction, multivariate and tensor analysis, envelope models, and statistical learning.

PUBLICATIONS and WORKING PAPERS

- May 2025 **Herath, H.M.W.B., & Samadi, S.Y.**, Partial Envelope and Reduced-Rank Partial Envelope Vector Autoregressive Models. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, Accepted. [ABDC-ranked **A***]

- Apr 2025 **Herath, H.M.W.B.**, Dimension reduction in vector autoregressive models for macroeconomic applications. *Statistics: A Journal of Theoretical and Applied Statistics*, 1–25. [ABDC-ranked **B**]
- Sep 2024 **Herath, H.M.W.B.**, & Samadi, S.Y., Scaled envelope models for multivariate time series, *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 105370. [ABDC-ranked **A**]
- Sep 2023 S.Y. Samadi & **H. M. W. B. Herath** (2023), Reduced-rank envelope vector autoregressive model, *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, 42(3), 918–932.[ABDC-ranked **A***]
- In progress J. Martin & **H. M. W. B. Herath**, Modeling Environmental and Urban Systems: A Comparative Regression Analysis, *Working Paper*.
- In progress **Herath, H.M.W.B.**, & Luo, Q., High-dimensional vector autoregressive time series modeling via t-product. *Working paper*.
- In progress Samadi, S.Y., **Herath, H.M.W.B.**, & De Alwis, T.P., Envelope-Rank Structured Modeling for High-Dimensional Matrix Autoregressive Models. *Working paper*.

RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

- 2026 **Summer Research Grant**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
- 2025 **Summer Research Grant**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
- 2024 **Summer Research Grant**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
- 2023 **Summer Research Grant**, Awarded by Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
- 2023 **NSF (DMS: 2310950) Travel Award**, DSCO 2023 Conference, University of San Francisco, USA; Funded by NSF (National Science Foundation).
- 2021 **NSF/CBMS Travel Award**, NSF/CBMS Conference, University of Alabama in Huntsville, USA; Funded by NSF (National Science Foundation).
- 2019 **Career Development Reimbursement Award**, Southern Illinois University; Funded by Southern Illinois University.
- 2019 **STATMOS Travel Award**, STATMOS workshop for Spatial Statistics, the University of Iowa, USA; Funded by NSF (National Science Foundation).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024-2025 **Research Writing group**, Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University.
Engaged in a collaborative peer group dedicated to improving academic writing productivity and habits. Focus areas included manuscript writing strategies, overcoming writing challenges, time and project management, and mutual accountability.
- Sp 21 - Su 22 **Time series research Group**, Southern Illinois University.
Collaborated on research projects and delivered presentations focused on time series analysis under the supervision of Dr. S. Yaser Samadi. Contributed to methodological discussions, data analysis, and development of models for applied and theoretical time series problems.
- Spring 2021 **Symbolic Data Analysis Working Group IV**, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI).
Engaged in academic presentations and collaborative discussions focused on symbolic data analysis, gaining new research insights and contributing to the exchange of ideas on emerging methodologies.
- Fall 2020 **Dimension Reduction in Time Series Working Group V**, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI).
Conducted presentations, explored new research ideas, and contributed to group projects focused on dimension reduction techniques in time series analysis, under the guidance of Dr. S. Yaser Samadi and with group coordination by Dr. David Banks.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

08/22–Present **Department of Actuarial Science, Information Management, and Business Analytics**, Drake University, USA.

Courses Taught

- Introduction to R and SAS (Stat 40) - Fall 22, 23, 24, 25 & Spring 26
- Statistics I (Stat 71) - Spring 23 & Fall 25
- Modern Regression (Stat 108) - Spring 23, 24, 25
- Statistics II (Stat 72) - Fall 23, 24, Spring 24, 25, 26 & Summer 24, 25, 26 (online)

08/17–05/22 **School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences**, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA.

Courses Taught

- Precalculus (Math 111) - Spring 2022
- Short Course in Calculus (Math 140) - Fall 2021 & Spring 2020
- Introduction to Statistics (Math 282) - Fall 2020
- Introduction to Statistics online (Math 282 online) - Summer 2021
- Contemporary Mathematics (Math 101) - Spring 2021 & Fall 2017
- Finite Mathematics online (Math 139 online) - Summer 2020 & 2019
- Finite Mathematics (Math 139) - Spring 2019 & Fall 2019

Courses Graded

- Mathematical Statistics in Engineering and Sciences (Math 483)
- Calculus II (Math 250)
- Calculus I (Math 151)
- Trig & Analytic Geometry (Math 109)
- College Algebra Enhanced (Math 106)

Other duties

- Tutoring undergraduate students, conducting proactive intervention sessions, and maintaining online grade book via D2L according to the guidelines of Center for Teaching Excellence at SIU.

06/16–06/17 **Department of Mathematics**, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Classes Taught

- Mathematics for Operations Research (MT 107)
- Integer Programming (MT 211)

Classes Graded

- Operations Research III (MT 315)

Other duties

- Prepare assignments and assist in conducting examinations for undergraduate students.

01/16–06/16 **Department of Computer Engineering**, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

- Duties covered conducting computer engineering lab classes and grading assignments for undergraduate students.

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

09/15–12/15 **Intern**, Department of Quality Assurance, MAS Active Linea Intimo, Biyagama, Sri Lanka. Engaged in five statistical projects which supported the smooth functioning of the department.

WORKSHOPS and CONFERENCES

- 07/16/26 Invited presentation at the 12th International Conference on Time Series and Forecasting, Gran Canaria, Spain, "Partial Envelope and Reduced-Rank Partial Envelope Vector Autoregressive Models".
- 05/01/26 Refereed presentation at the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics 2026, Milwaukee, WI, "Neural Vector Autoregressive Models for Dimension Reduction in Time Series".
- 15/12/25 Invited presentation at CFE-CMStatistics 2025 hybrid conference, University of London, UK, "Dimension reduction in VAR models via informative lag selection".
- 08/05/25 Contributed paper presentation at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) 2025, Nashville, TN, "Efficient Dimension Reduction for Multivariate Time Series Using Partial Envelopes".
- 06/14/25 Invited presentation at the International Indian Statistical Association, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE, "Enhancing High-Dimensional Time Series Analysis with Envelope Methods".
- 05/01/25 Refereed presentation at the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics 2025, Salt Lake City, UT, "Partial Envelope Methods for Efficient Estimation in Vector Autoregressive Models".
- 04/04/25 Research seminar talk at Zimpleman College of Business at Drake University, "Parsimonious Modeling of High-Dimensional Macroeconomic Time Series Using Partial Envelope Techniques".
- 08/04/24 Contributed paper presentation at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) 2024, Portland, OR, "Scaled Envelope Models for Multivariate Time Series".
- 02/29/24 Refereed presentation at the 2024 Conference on Statistical Practice, New Orleans, LA, "Scaled Envelope Models for Multivariate Time Series".
- 02/12/24 Invited research talk at Iowa State University, Statistics Seminar, "Reduced-rank envelope vector autoregressive models".
- 11/04/23 Participated in Academic Writing Skills Workshop, ACE learning excellence and innovation.
- 10/04/23 Invited research talk at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Statistics Seminar, "Reduced-rank envelope vector autoregressive models".
- 09/29/23 Contributed poster presentation at Iowa State University, 75th Anniversary Research Conference, "Dimension Reduction in Vector Autoregressive Models for Macroeconomic Applications".
- 08/31/23 Participated in Big Data Virtual Conference 2023, Harvard University.
- 05/24/23 Refereed presentation at the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics 2023, St. Louis, MO, "Dimension Reduction in Vector Autoregressive Models for Macroeconomic Applications".
- 03/13/23 Contributed talk at the University of San Francisco, Data Science Conference 2023, "Dimension Reduction for Vector Autoregressive Models".
- 12/02/22 Invited research seminar talk at Drake University, "Scaled Envelope Models for Multivariate Time Series".
- 26/11/22 Participated in Writing & Publishing a High Impact (Q1) Journal Article Workshop, ACE learning excellence and innovation.
- 29/10/22 Invited talk at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2022 Langenhop Lecture & SIU Probability and Statistics Conference, "Scaled Envelope Models for Multivariate Time Series".
- 23/09/22 Participated in 2022 NBER-NSF Time Series Virtual Conference, Department of Economics, Boston University.
- March 2022 Contributed talk at Millikin University, 2022 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Section of the MAA, "Partial envelope models for multivariate time series".

- March 2022 Invited research seminar talk at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, "Partial envelope models for multivariate time series".
- Dec 2021 Invited research seminar talk at Drake University, "Reduced-rank envelope vector autoregressive models".
- August 2021 Participated in Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Virtual Conference.
- August 2021 Participated NSF/CBMS Conference on Gaussian Random Fields, Fractals, SPDEs, and Extremes at University of Alabama in Huntsville.
- May 2021 Invited conference talk at Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) Numerical Analysis in Data Science Transition Virtual Workshop, "Dimension Reduction for Vector Autoregressive Models".
- April 2021 Presented paper (online), Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, "Robust Reduced-Rank Models".
- Feb 2021 Presented paper (online), Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, "Tensor Regression Analysis for High Dimensional Data".
- Dec 2020 Presented paper (online), Dimension Reduction in Time Series, Working Group V, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, "Partial Envelopes for Multivariate Regression and Multivariate Time Series".
- Nov 2020 Presented paper (online), Dimension Reduction in Time Series, Working Group V, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, "Reduced-Rank Time Series Models".
- Oct 2020 Presented paper (online), Dimension Reduction in Time Series, Working Group V, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA, "Multilinear Low-Rank Time Series Analysis".
- August 2020 Participated in Numerical Analysis in Data Science Virtual Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) Virtual Workshop.
- August 2020 Participated in NBER-NSF SBIES Virtual Conference on Bayesian Inference in Econometrics and Statistics at Washington University in St. Louis.
- March 2020 Contributed poster presentation at Michigan State University, SSP 2020 Conference, "Tensor Data Analyses for High Dimensional Data".
- Nov 2019 Participated in Big Data Summit at the University of Illinois Research Park, Champaign, Illinois.
- Nov 2019 Invited conference talk at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL-MO Conference, "Tensor Regression Analysis for High Dimensional Data".
- Sep 2019 Participated in STATMOS Workshop for Spatial Statistics at the University of Iowa.
- April 2019 Invited poster presentation at Southern Illinois University, Graduate Research Conference, "Tensor Regression and Tensor Time Series Analyses for High Dimensional Data".

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- 06/15/26-06/18/26 Participated in an Electronic Conference On Teaching Statistics (ECOTS 2026), online.
- 07/15/25-07/19/25 Participated in a five-day U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 2025), Iowa State University, Ames, IA.
- 05/15/25 Participated in a Teaching Statistics Workshop for Drake Statistics Instructors, Drake University, Des Moines, IA.
- 05/22/23 Participated Iowa SAS Users Group The 13th One-Day Conference, Des Moines, IA.

- 09/21/22 Participated in SAS workshop, Getting Started with SAS® Studio: A Point-and-Click Approach.
- 08/18/22 Participated in Drake Faculty Learning Symposium, Drake University, Des Moines, IA.

LEADERSHIP and COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- 2018 – 2019 **President**, Sri Lankan Student Association (RSO), Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- 2017 – 2018 **Vice President**, Sri Lankan Student Association (RSO), Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- 2014 **Secretary**, Operations Research Society, University of Peradeniya.
- 2013 **Assistant Secretary**, Operations Research Society, University of Peradeniya.
- 2013 **Member**, Rotaract club, University of Peradeniya.

PROFESSIONAL and ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

- 2017-Present **Member**, American Mathematical Society.
- 2017-Present **Member**, American Statistical Association.
- 2025-Present **Member**, International Indian Statistical Association.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Services to the University

- 2026 Student Marshal, Drake University Commencement.
- 2025 Search committee member, Tenure-track assistant professor of Actuarial Science.
- 2024-Present Faculty advisor, Phi Chi Theta.
- 2024-Present Faculty mentor, Zimpleman College of Business.
- 2023-Present First Friday Research Seminar Coordinator, Zimpleman College of Business.
- 2022 – 2023 Mentoring Cohort, Drake University.

Editorial Review Activities

- 2025 Reviewer, *International Conference on Transformative Research (ICTAR) 2025*.
- 2024–Present Journal Reviewer, *Statistics*.

Service to the Profession or Discipline

- 2025 Session chair, Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) 2025, Nashville, TN.

VOLUNTEERING/OUTREACH WORKS

- 2026 Organizing committee member and section chair, 2026 Iowa SAS Users One-Day Conference.
- 2022 Integration Bee, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- 2018 International Student Orientation, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- 2018 Expanding Your Horizons Conference, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
- 2016 Faculty of Science Industry Day (FOSID), University of Peradeniya.
- 2016 Statistics and Operations Research Day, University of Peradeniya.

SKILLS & TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

- Languages ENGLISH, SINHALA
- Coding R, SAS, MATLAB
- Document Preparation LATEX, R MARKDOWN, MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT)

Learning Platforms	BLACKBOARD, D2L (DESIRE2LEARN), PEARSON MYLABS
Instructional Tools	ZOOM, PANOPTO
Academic Systems	BANNER (ELLUCIAN)