

OVERVIEW

I am a PhD candidate in Economics at Heidelberg University specialising in environmental and behavioural economics, with a focus on renewable resource management in developing countries. I have experience in designing and implementing field experiments in low-income settings. My research aims to inform real-world policy and includes stakeholder engagement and science communication.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Economics

Heidelberg University

Sep. 2023 - present

Heidelberg, Germany

- Topic: Market-based instruments for incentivising compliance in developing country common-pool resource management
- Current funding: MultiTip - ER research project (Sept. 2023 - Sept. 2025), funded via the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Master of Science in Economics

University of Mannheim

Sep. 2019 - Jan. 2022

Mannheim, Germany

- Grade: 2.1 (Highest possible grade: 1.0)
- Master's thesis grade: 1.3; Topic: The Effect of Temperature on Road Traffic Accidents in Germany

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Environmental Studies

Northeastern University

Sep. 2014 - May 2018

Boston, U.S.A

- Grade: 3.706 *Magna Cum Laude* (Highest possible grade: 4.0)
- Achievements: Academic Scholarship, Honors Program (Fall 2014–Spring 2018), Dean's List (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring–Fall 2016)
- Bachelor's thesis grade: 3.67; Topic: The Effect of Tropical Storms and Hurricanes on Net Migration in U.S. Counties

ACCEPTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

Subsidizing Compliance: A Field Experiment on Discounted Sustainable Fishing Gear at Lake Victoria

2025

Authors: Sorell de Silva, Florian Diekert, Tillmann Eymess, Timo Goeschl, Joseph Luomba, Horace Owiti Onyango

- To be presented by Sorell de Silva at:
 - * AERE (Association of Environmental and Resource Economists) Summer Conference – May 2025 – Albuquerque, NM, USA
 - * EAERE (European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists) Summer Conference – June 2025 – Bergen, Norway
 - * GDE (German Development Economics) Conference – June 2025 – Frankfurt, Germany

Non-Compliance in Renewable Resource Systems: A Bait Policy for Sustainable Fisheries at Lake Victoria

2025

Authors: Sorell de Silva, Santiago Gómez-Cardona, Bwambale Mbilingi, Herbert Nakiyende

- To be presented by Santiago Gómez-Cardona at:
 - * EAERE (European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics) Summer Conference – June 2025 – Bergen, Norway

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE

Science Communication Officer for the MultiTip Research Project

Research Center for Environmental Economics, Heidelberg University

Aug. 2022 - Present

Heidelberg, Germany

- Editing Policy Briefs and Occasional Reports for dissemination of project results
- Summarising interdisciplinary research on ecological tipping points at Lake Victoria for website (www.multitip.de)
- Facilitating intra-project communication and communicating goals and outcomes to external stakeholders at Lake Victoria
- Facilitating knowledge transfer between researchers and policymakers by organising workshops, seminars and outreach events in Heidelberg, Germany and in the Lake Victoria region

Co-author of Science Communication Manuscripts for the MultiTip - ER Research Project

Science Communication Manuscripts

Jan. 2025 - Present

- de Silva, S., Diekert, F., Eymess, T., Goeschl, T., Luomba, J., Onyango, H. O., & Kayanda, R. (2025). *Subsidizing sustainable dagaa nets at Lake Victoria*. MultiTip - ER Policy Brief #1.
- de Silva, S., Gómez-Cardona, S., Mbilingi, B., Nakiyende, H., & Kayanda, R. (2025). *A bait policy for a sustainable longline Nile perch fishery*. MultiTip - ER Policy Brief #2.
- Goeschl, T., de Silva, S., Diekert, F., Gómez-Cardona, S., & Kayanda, R. (2025). *Field interventions – Expert prior beliefs and intervention outcomes*. MultiTip - ER Occasional Report #1.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Researcher for “Circle of Poison” Research Project

Sep. 2016 - May 2017

Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative, Northeastern University

Boston, U.S.A

- Conducted literature research on: international pesticide production, trade and use, pesticide dependency and health and financial consequences on farmers

Research Assistant

Jan. 2016 - April 2016

Early Honours Research Assistantship, Northeastern University

Boston, U.S.A

- Conducted literature research on green energy, food production, climate change, etc. for published textbook “Environmental Ethics: Theory in Practice”, 1st Edition by Ronald L. Sandler, Oxford University Press
- Proofread text, provided feedback and compiled citations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder; Social Media & Advertising Manager

Dec. 2012 - Dec. 2021

All About You - Women's Clothing Store

Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

- Assisted in business start-up: researched information, developed promotional strategies, set up store inventory and daily management
- Handled customer inquiries and conducted online sales. Managed advertising on Instagram and Facebook
- Provided advice and assistance in improving environmental sustainability

Intern - Digital Printing

Jan 2017 - June 2017

Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

Heidelberg, Germany

- Conducted literature research on environmental issues related to digital print production for Fall 2017 edition, “Heidelberg Nachrichten” customer magazine
- Analysed regional environmental regulations and application segments for digital printing systems
- Created a presentation for brand-owners on the environmental benefits of Heidelberg Druckmaschinen's digital printing solutions, current trends and the expectations of younger generations with respect to print products

Intern - Corporate Social Responsibility

June 2015 - July 2015

Aitken Spence PLC

Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Trained in Integrated Reporting, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Management
- Gathered information from Sustainability Representatives from company subsidiaries on sustainable practices, including eco-tourism, green power generation, Corporate Social Responsibility programs, carbon neutral printing, efficiency programs & occupational health and safety
- Analysed these practices, provided feedback and discussed problems with Sustainability Representatives, suggested improvements to achieve sustainability standards

TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Programming Languages: R, Stata, \LaTeX , STELLA (Systems Thinking, Experimental Learning Laboratory with Animation)

Software: QGIS, Imperia CMS (Content Management System), MS Office, Apple Pages, Numbers & Keynote

Languages: English (native), German (Conversational, TELC B1 Language Exam completed), Sinhalese (Conversational)