

# Mira Philips

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## Education

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- University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice** 2022-  
**PhD Student**  
 Social Welfare
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amy Castro, PhD
- London School of Economics and Political Science** 2016-2017  
**Master of Science (with Distinction)**  
 Social Policy and Planning
- Thesis - *Discursive Colonization: Analyzing the Construction of Indigenous Women Sex Workers in Canadian Print Media*
  - Faculty Advisor: Professor Lucinda Platt
- University of Toronto** 2010-2014  
**Honors Bachelor of Arts (with High Distinction)**  
 Political Science and Ethics, Society & Law

## Research Interests

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- Gender, race & ethnicity
- Migrant women
- Informal labor
- Social reproduction
- Transnational motherhood
- Citizenship
- Qualitative research methods

## Research Experience

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- 2022- **Center for Guaranteed Income Research**, University of Pennsylvania  
**Doctoral Research Assistant**
- Conducting qualitative fieldwork, data coding, and analysis
  - Co-authoring journal articles and white papers
- 2014-2016 **Centre for Poverty Analysis**, Sri Lanka  
**Research Assistant**
- Contributed to qualitative research projects on post-war development, women-headed households, and political economy
  - Wrote literature reviews, developed research questions and methodology,

conducted fieldwork in several communities, liaised with high-level partners, coded qualitative data, and developed policy recommendations

- Co-authored reports, journal articles, and several newspaper articles, and contributed to policy discussions with NGO and government actors

## Publications

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### *Manuscripts in Peer-Reviewed Journals*

Gunasekara, V., **Philips, M.**, Romeshun, K., Munas, M. 2016. Life and Debt: Assessing the Impacts of Participatory Housing Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka. *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*, 5(1), p.10.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.434>

### *Manuscripts in Preparation or Under Review*

**Philips, M.**, Lyons, A.J., Castro, A., West, S. (Under review). Dervedness & Unconditional Cash in Public Discourse: A Big Qual Analysis Across Eight Guaranteed Income Experiments.

**Philips, M.** (In preparation). Alternative Routes to Power and Resistance: Diaspora Tamil Women, Memory & Social Reproduction.

### *Non-Peer Reviewed Reports*

Gunasekara, V., **Philips M.**, Nagaraj, V. 2016. Hospitality and Exclusion: A Study About Post-War Tourism in Sri Lanka. *Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium*, Report No. 15.

<https://securelivelihoods.org/publication/hospitality-and-exclusion-a-study-about-post-war-tourism-in-passikudah/>

Mayadunne, G., **Philips, M.** 2016. Perceptions of Livelihood Service Delivery: A Study of Fisher Communities in Post-War North and East of Sri Lanka. *Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium*, Working Paper No. 44. <https://securelivelihoods.org/publication/perceptions-of-livelihood-services-delivery-a-study-of-fisher-communities-in-post-war-north-and-east-of-sri-lanka/>

## Fellowships & Grants

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2022-2025      Presidential PhD Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; \$30,000 for three years.

2014-2015      LankaCorps Fellow, The Asia Foundation, Sri Lanka

## Conference Presentations

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- January 2024 **Philips, M.,** Pepe, R., Brown, C. “Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear: The Proximity of Historical Oppressions to Social Policy Today.” Roundtable, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- January 2024 **Philips, M.,** Lyons, A.J., Castro, A., West, S. “Deservedness & Unconditional Cash in Public Discourse: A Big Qual Analysis Across Eight Guaranteed Income Experiments.” Poster presentation, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- October 2023 **Philips, M.** “Alternative Routes to Power and Resistance: Diaspora Women, Memory & Social Reproduction.” Oral presentation, The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Student Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, U.S.
- April 2023 **Philips, M.** “Conceptualizing Memory Work in the Domestic Sphere: The Case of Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora Women.” Oral presentation, European Conference for Social Work Research, Milan, Italy.
- July 2015 Gunasekara, V., **Philips, M.,** Nagaraj, V. “Hospitality and Exclusion: A Study About Post-War Tourism in Sri Lanka.” Oral presentation, Critical Tourism Studies Conference, Opatija, Croatia.

## Other Professional Experience

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- 2019-2022 **The Athena Advisors,** Takoma Park, MD  
**Senior Consultant**
- Prepared prospect research, memos, and trainings to support non-profit organizations in bolstering their fundraising practices and organizational performance
- 2020-2021 **Broad Reach Canada,** Toronto  
**Senior Project Manager**
- Managed Broad Reach’s government funded Ships2Shores project, valued at \$350,000, which was designed to connect youth with Canada’s marine sector.
  - Led the project to directly engage 2,300+ youth across the country in in-person and virtual activities covering arts & culture, workforce development, maritime history, civic engagement, and sail training.
  - Supervised a youth council composed of 25 individuals from across Canada to fulfill project deliverables, and develop skills in project management, communications, leadership, and grant writing.
  - Oversaw the implementation of a \$79,000 bursary fund which supported

130 underserved youth in accessing sail training programs across Canada during Summer 2021

2018

**Women and Media Collective / UN Women, Sri Lanka  
Consultant**

- Developed a one-day training module on gender sensitive policy making for Sri Lankan women working in local government and community service organizations, which involved case studies and role-play exercises. Training was successfully delivered in three locations in 2019.

2016-2018

**Sunayra Lanka, Sri Lanka  
Co-Founder / Research & Operations Director**

- Conceptualized and delivered a Creative Education learning model to 200+ rural Sri Lankan youth, which encouraged them to utilize creativity and art to navigate the myriad of difficulties they faced
- Conducted research on programming sites and global and local education trends, and developed the monitoring and evaluation criteria
- Developed internal communications, including short and long-term strategies, SWOT analyses, needs assessments, and branding strategies
- Organized fundraisers and developed external communications, including website, social media, blog posts, email campaigns, funder reports, and pitch decks
- Cultivated relationships with corporate and philanthropic stakeholders, academics, and the social services and youth sectors in Sri Lanka
- Drafted grant applications and proposals, and successfully secured numerous donations, including a renewable \$5,000 grant from the Feminist foundation FRIDA.

## Community Service & Leadership

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May 2023- Leader, Doctoral Student Steering Committee, School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania  
 Aug 2019-Mar 2020 Volunteer, COMPASS Refugee Center, Kitchener, Canada  
 Aug 2019-Mar 2020 Volunteer, House of Friendship, Kitchener, Canada

## Skills

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Software: Dedoose, NVivo, R

## Memberships

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European Social Work Research Association