MIRA K. PHILIPS

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EDUCATION

2022-Present **University of Pennsylvania**
School of Social Policy & Practice
PhD Candidate
Social Welfare
Committee: Amy Castro (Chair), Roberto Gonzales, Noor Toraif, Rupaleem Bhuyan

2017 **London School of Economics and Political Science**
Master of Science (with Distinction)
Social Policy & Planning
Thesis: *Discursive Colonization: The Construction of Indigenous Women Sex Workers in Canadian Print Media*
Advisor: Lucinda Platt

2014 **University of Toronto**
Honors Bachelor of Arts (with High Distinction)
Political Science & Ethics, Society & Law

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender, Race & Ethnicity; Migration; Citizenship; Labor; Social Reproduction; Social Inequality; Deservedness; Unconditional Cash

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-Present **University of Pennsylvania**
Center for Guaranteed Income Research
Doctoral Research Assistant
◊ Conducting qualitative data collection, data coding, and analysis

of unconditional cash experiments across the United States
- ◊ Co-authoring journal articles and white papers on the outcomes of these experiments.

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, 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

Manuscripts in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Castro, A., **Philips, M.**, Kim, I., West, S., & Kim, B.-K. E. (2025). Time Scarcity, Health Behaviors, and Unconditional Cash in Los Angeles. *American Journal of Public Health*, *115*(8), 1222–1225. https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2025.308125

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), 1-17. http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.434

Manuscripts Under Review

Philips, M., Lyons, A.J., Castro, A., West, S. Renegotiating Deservedness: A Big Qual Analysis Across Eight Guaranteed Income Experiments.

Philips, M., Castro, A., West, S. Fragility by Proxy: Unconditional Cash and Care Work in a Los Angeles Micro-Pilot.

Manuscripts in Preparation

DeYoung, E., Castro, A., **Philips, M.**, West, S. Time to Care: Using a Mixed-Methods App to Measure the Impact of Guaranteed Income on Unpaid Caregivers.

Philips, M., Soltani, L., Flynn, K., Bervik, A. Unconditional Cash and Relational Dynamics During Resettlement: A Study of Refugees in Minnesota.

Philips, M. Theorizing Migrant Caregivers and the Ethic(s) of Care.

Philips, M. Alternative Routes to Power & Resistance: Diaspora Women, Memory, and Social Reproduction.

Non-Peer Reviewed Reports

Castro, A., **Philips, M**., West, S. (In press). *The American Guaranteed Income Studies: National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles, CA*. University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research.

Gunasekara, V., **Philips, M**., & Nagaraj, V. (2016). *Hospitality and Exclusion: A Study About Post-War Tourism in Sri Lanka.* (Research Report 15). Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium. https://securelivelihoods.org/publication/hospitality-and-exclusion-a-study-about-post-war-tourism-in-passikudah/

Mayadunne, G. and **Philips, M**. (2016). *Perceptions of Livelihood Service Delivery: A Study of Fisher Communities in Post-War North and East of Sri Lanka*. (Working Paper 44). Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium. https://securelivelihoods.org/publication/perceptions-of-livelihood-services-delivery-a-study-of-fisher-communities-in-post-war-north-and-east-of-sri-lanka/

FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Turner Schulman Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration
2022-2025	Presidential PhD Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2014-2015	LankaCorps Fellowship, The Asia Foundation

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

August 2025	Paper Presentation, 24th Basic Income Earth Network Congress, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil
May 2025	Paper Presentation, Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies 11th Annual Conference, Hamilton, Canada
November 2024	Paper presentation, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, US

August 2024 Paper presentation, 23rd Basic Income Earth Network Congress, University of Bath, Bath, UK

January 2024 Roundtable Presentation, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC

Poster presentation, Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC

October 2023 Paper presentation, University of Pennsylvania Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Student Workshop, Philadelphia, US

April 2023 Paper presentation, European Conference for Social Work Research, Milan, Italy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2024 Teaching Assistant, Reproductive Justice Policy (MSSP 7801), University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, Graduate Level (Dr. K. McKay)

- ◊ Guest lecture, November 2024: "Black Maternal Health, Parental Leave, and Caregiving in the United States"

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-2022 **The Athena Advisors**, London, UK
Senior Consultant

- ◊ Prepared prospect research, memos, internal audits, reports, and trainings to support non-profit organizations in strengthening their fundraising practices and organizational performance
- ◊ Served as Project Manager for engagements with Aegis Trust (Rwanda/UK) and the National Academy of Education (USA)
- ◊ Co-organized Aegis Trust's 400-person conference on peace, justice, and reconciliation in Kigali, Rwanda, with specific responsibilities for coordinating all speakers and panels
- ◊ Developed surveys and conducted interviews for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (USA) to understand the organization's fundraising successes, opportunities, and challenges. Presented findings to executive leadership and staff

2020-2021 **Broad Reach Canada**
Senior Project Manager

- ◊ Managed the federally-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 25-member youth council from across Canada to fulfill project deliverables, and develop skills in project management, communications, leadership, and grant writing.
- ◊ Implemented and oversaw a $79,000 bursary fund which supported 130 underserved youth in accessing sail training programs during Summer 2021

2018 **Women and Media Collective / UN Women**, Sri Lanka
Consultant

- ◊ Developed a training module on gender sensitive policy making for Sri Lankan women working in local government and community service organizations.

2016-2018 **Sunayra Lanka**, Sri Lanka
Co-Founder / Research & Operations Director

- ◊ Conceptualized and delivered a unique Creative Education learning model to 200+ rural and conflict-affected Sri Lankan youth
- ◊ Conducted research on programming sites and global and local education trends, and developed the monitoring and evaluation criteria
- ◊ 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 social service providers
- ◊ Drafted grant applications and proposals, and successfully secured numerous donations, including a multi-year grant

SERVICE

Reviewer	*Potentia: Graduate Journal of International Affairs*
May-June 2025	Student Representative, Dean's Reappointment Committee, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice
April 2025	Facilitator, Macro Social Work Simulation, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice

May 2023-May 2024	Leader, Doctoral Student Steering Committee, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice

SKILLS

Software: Dedoose, NVivo, R (beginner)

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management; Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies; Society for Social Work & Research