# Suwani Sathsara Gunasekara

✉ gunasekara@student.unimelb.edu.au, suwani.gunasekara@gmail.com

in https: www.linkedin.com/in/suwani-gunasekara

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**EDUCATION**

*Doctor of Philosophy - Engineering and IT*  May 2023 – Present
**University of Melbourne**
Thesis: Impact of Rich Media on the Spread of Online Misinformation

*Bachelor of Business Science (Hons) specialized in Business Analytics*  January 2018 – May 2022
**University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka**

- Overall **GPA**: **4.00/4.20**
- First Class Honours (Based on the calculated GPA)
- **Dean's List** in all 8 semesters
- **Electives**: Machine Learning, Data Mining, Data Structures and Algorithms, Multivariate Methods in Business, Database Management, Financial Econometric, Stochastic Processes and Distributional Theory, Operations Research, Research Methods.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Suwani Gunasekara**, Cherie Sew, Saumya Pareek, Ryan M. Kelly, Vassilis Kostakos, and Jorge Goncalves. 2026. Timing Matters: Designing Effective Corrections for Short-Form Video Misinformation. In Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26), April 13–17, 2026, Barcelona, Spain. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 17 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790560

**Suwani Gunasekara**, Cherie Sew, Saumya Pareek, Ryan M. Kelly, Vassilis Kostakos, and Jorge Goncalves. 2026. The Role of Presentation Styles in Countering Misinformation on Short Video Platforms. Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 10, 2, Article CSCW039 (April 2026), 27 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3788075

Cherie Sew, Safira Nugroho, **Suwani Gunasekara**, Adélaïde Genay, Ryan M. Kelly, and Jorge Goncalves. 2026. Influencers vs. Legacy Media on Instagram: Effects on Perceived Credibility and Following Intention. In Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26), April 13–17, 2026, Barcelona, Spain. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790942

**Suwani Gunasekara,** Saumya Pareek, Ryan M. Kelly, and Jorge Goncalves. 2025. The Influence of Content Modality on Perceptions of Online Misinfor- mation. In CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25), April 26-May 1, 2025, Yokohama, Japan. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 10 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713098

**Gunasekara, Suwani**, Saumya Pareek, Ryan M. Kelly, Vassilis Kostakos and Jorge Goncalves. "Auditing TikTok's Recommendations: Understanding the Prevalence of Misinformation on the Platform" (Under Review, International Journal of Human-Computer Studies)

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**People Choice Award 2025 - Three Minute Thesis**
Organised by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
**People Choice Award - Best Poster**
Doctoral Colloquium - 2024
Organised by the Schools of Computing and Information Systems - University of Melbourne

**Malik Jann Award**.
This is awarded to the Coloursman with the highest 1st year GPA.

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| **WORKING EXPERIENCE** | **Business Analyst** | November 2021 – March 2023 |

London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), Malabe, Sri Lanka

- Researching and Integrating data science aspects to the product portfolio of LSEG technology.

**Intern - Data Scientist**      July 2019 — December 2019
Acuity Knowledge Partners, Sri Lanka
Built a predictive model for stock market using news sentiments
- Scraped over 5000 news headlines from Sri Lankan newspapers using python libraries Beautiful Soup and Selenium.
- Using regular expressions and NLP text cleaning techniques the text data was cleaned.
- Text sentiment was quantified using python libraries Textblob, Vader and used the polarity score to predict the stock prices of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Head Tutor**
Usability Evaluation Method (INFO20004)      July - November 2025
**Tutor**
Media Computation (COMP10003)      March - June 2025
User Interface Development (INFO20005)      March - June 2025
Optimisation and Decision Making (Melbourne Business School)      March - May 2024

**OTHER SKILLS & INTERESTS**

**Language Skills**
English (Full Professional Proficiency), Sinhala (Native or Bilingual Proficiency)

**Interests**
Machine Learning , Neural Networks , Econometric, Statistics, Data Analytics, Database Management,Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Genetic Algorithms

**TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

*Scripting Languages:* Python, R, PySpark, MATLAB
*Database Management Languages:* SQL
*Visualization Tools:* Tableau, Power Bi

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- University colours for the years 2018,2019.
- 1st Runners Up - National Sports Festival 2018 Western Province Chess team.
- Senior prefect at Visakha Vidyalaya.
- Member of the school chess team from 2003 to 2014.
    - School colours - 2004, 2011, 2013, 2014.
    - Western province colors - 2011,2013.
    - 2nd Runner Up - 2011 (U 19), 1st Runner Up - 2013 (U 19)- All Island National School Games (Chess).
    - Champions (U 19) - 2013 - All Island Inter School Chess Championship.
    - Vice Captain of the school senior chess team for the year 2013/2014.

**REFERENCES**

**A/Prof. Jorge Goncalves**
Faculty of Engineering & IT,
University of Melbourne,
Parkville VIC 3052.
✉ [jorge.goncalves@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jorge.goncalves@unimelb.edu.au)