

Curriculum Vitae

Ram Alagan, Ph.D.
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ADDRESS

OFFICE

Asian Studies Program
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Education

- **West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, USA**
 2007 – PhD in Geography
 - Special Interests: GIScience, Participatory GIS, Geo-visualization, Virtual GIS, Environmental Impact Assessment.
 - Ph.D. Dissertation Research: Participatory GIS approaches to Environmental Impact Assessment: A Case study of the Appalachian Corridor H transportation project in West Virginia.
- **Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA**
 1994-1996- M.A in Geography
 - Special Interest: GIS, Remote Sensing, and Resource Management
 - MA Thesis: A conservation management plan for Knuckles Forest and its natural resources - Sri Lanka.
- **University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.**
 1989 - B. A. in Environmental Geography
 - Special Interest: River Sedimentation, Landslides, and Landuse Planning
 - BA Research: Climate influence and population migration in fishing industries in Sri Lanka.

Faculty Appointments

INTERNATIONAL

- **Fall 2008** **Buffalo University, Buffalo, NY**
 - Adjunct Faculty / Visiting Scholar: Asian Studies Program and Global Gender Studies

Responsibilities: Teaching Gender. Labor and Environment in the Global Economy, Graduate Class

- **Fall 2008** **Indiana State University, Indiana**
 - Visiting Adjunct Lecturer: Distance based Course on Economic Geography

Teaching Positions

- **Fall 2002** **West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Guest Lecturer: Environmental Impact Assessment. Title: Integrating EIA and Geo-Visualization for spatial decision-making.
- **Summer 2002** **West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Guest Lecturer: West Virginia Governor's Scholarship and Training Program for Middle Schools. Title: GIS application in Environmental Management.
- **Fall 2001** **West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Guest Lecturer: Economic Geography. Title: Regional Development Impact, Ethnic Conflict, and Social Development. Special focus on South Asia.
- **Spring 2001** **West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Guest Lecturer: Regional Geography. Title: Geo Politics, Space, and Conflict.
- **Fall 1999** **West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Guest Lecturer: Political Geography. Sri Lankan Geo-Politics and Regional Development.

Research Positions

- **1998-2001** **Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Graduate Research Assistant, American Electrical Power Company EIA Project
- **2001-2002** **State GIS Center, Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Graduate Research Assistant, State GIS database project, Geological & Economic Survey of State of West Virginia, and Petroleum Transfer Protocol Technology (PTTC)
- **2002-2003** **Natural Resource Analysis Center (NRAC) West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV**
 - Graduate Research Assistant, for GIS mapping on Brownfield redevelopment project

- 1996-1998 **Institute for local Government Administration and Rural Development, Ohio University, Athens, OH**
 - Graduate Research Assistant, for Spatial Data Mining Project

SRI LANKA

- 1991 to present **Department of Geography University of Peradeniya.**
 - Senior Lecturer in Geography
 - Responsibilities: Teaching, research, project development, training, mentoring, and curriculum development
 - Course taught
 - Geographic Information Systems
 - Environmental Impact Assessment
 - GIS and Society
 - Remote Sensing
 - Fundamentals of Environmental Geography
 - South Asia
 - World Regions
 - Coastal Geomorphology
 - Tropical Environment
 - Philosophy of Geography
 - Sri Lankan Environment
 - Automated Cartography
- 2006 -2007 **Visiting Lecturer - Post Graduate Institute of Science**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Teaching and conducting training session on application of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing for natural resource management
- 2005 -2006 **Visiting Lecturer Colombo University**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Teaching Environmental impact Assessment for Post Graduate Students in the Economic Department
- 2007 - 2008 **Visiting Lecturer Rajarata University, North-central District of Sri Lanka**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Teaching Computer Application in Environmental Management, Department of Social Sciences, special focus on GIS and GPS.
- 2005 – 2007 **Visiting Lecturer American College, Kandy Sri Lanka**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Teaching World Regional Geography

- **2004 - 2008** **Liaison, Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education (ISLE) Program**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Liaison between Peradeniya University and ISLE program
 - Lecturer in Environmental Studies
 - Teaching Tamil language, organized field trips, and cultural activities.

- **2004 – 2006** **Assistant Coordinator: Tulane University –International Center for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka:**
 - Responsibilities:
 - Advising and Teaching environmental studies classes. Coordinating cultural and political studies field trips.

- **1986/01 – 1988/02** **Language Instructor: US PEACE CORPS, Sri Lanka:**
 - Responsibilities: Taught local languages to American students, team leader for mountain climbing, Coordinating cultural field trips.

Publication

- **Ram Alagan** and Seela Aladuwa, 2008 A Geographical Perspective of Safe Motherhood and Challenges in the Hill Country of Sri Lanka. A Case Study: Doragala Tea Plantation in Pussellawa, Marriage and Family, Taylor & Francis.

- **Ram Alagan** and Nawfhal. A.C.M, 2008. Post Disaster Impact Assessment Tools and Methods. Addressing the Building Resilience to Tsunami in the Indian Ocean a Joint Project of ADRRN (Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network) and Kyoto University.

- **Ram Alagan, 2008**, Putting Multimedia GIS in Real World Practice for Natural Disaster Management: A Case Study in Sri Lanka Tsunami. Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara, Felicitation Volume, Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

- P. Wickramagamaga and **Ram Alagan, 2008**. Department of Geography and Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The Spatial Variation of Tsunami Impact in Hambantota District, Intergraph Publication.

- **Ram Alagan, 2008**, Building Consensus in Environmental Decision Making Process: Putting Participatory Geo-visualization into Practice, Geo-Informatics Society Annual Publication, Sri Lanka

Forth coming publication:

- **Seela Aladuwa and Ram Alagan, 2009, Sustainable Development, Water Resources Management and Women's Empowerment: The Wanaraniya Water Project in Sri Lanka, Journal of Applied Geography**

Colloquium Presentation

- Ram Alagan and Seela Aladuwaka 10/2008, "Sustainable Development, Water Resources Management and Women's Empowerment, University at Buffalo
- Ram Alagan and Seela Aladuwaka 10/2008, Challenges of Post Tsunami Reconstruction in Sri Lanka, University of South Carolina

Conference Presentation

- Ram Alagan, 2008, GIS Solution to Faculty of Arts Administration. Arts Faculty Annual Research Session, University of Peradeniya. 2008.
- Ram Alagan, 2007. *Virtual Peradeniya University*. University of Peradeniya Annual Research Conference: Forthcoming
- Ram Alagan, 2007. *Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems*. Training workshop presented for Plan Sri Lanka Staff. Plan Sri Lanka Kandy regional office.
- Ram Alagan, Wickramagamage. P, and Seela Aladuwaka 2007. Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Can Participatory-GIS Strengthen Local Zoning Plan? Lessons Learned from Madu Ganga. Faculty of Arts University of Peradeniya Annual Research Conference
- Ram Alagan, 2007, *Putting Multimedia GIS in Real World Practice for Natural Disaster Management: A Case Study in Sri Lanka Tsunami*. Faculty of Arts, Post Graduate Seminar
- Ram Alagan and Seela Aladuwaka, 2006 Sept. *A Geographical Perspective of Safe Motherhood and Challenges in the Hill Country of Sri Lanka. A Case Study: Doragala Tea Plantation in Pussellawa, Sri Lanka*
- Ram Alagan, 2005, *Post-Tsunami Reconstruction in Sri Lanka and Geo-Political Realities In The Eastern And Northern Provinces*. Faculty of Arts University of Peradeniya Annual Research Conference
- Wickramagamage, P and Ram Alagan, 2005, *Environmental Issues in the Central Province, SRI LANKA*. Paper presented at the training session for environmental officials, Ministry of Environment, Central Province Government, Sri Lanka.
- Ram Alagan, 2005, GIS application for Tsunami Disaster Management: Presented at the Tulane University Tsunami Research Training session, ICES, Kandy
- Ram Alagan, 2005, Multimedia GIS approach for spatial decision making in disaster situation: A case Sri Lanka Tsunami; University of Peradeniya Annual Research Conference

- Ram Alagan, 2006, Environmental Issues in the Knuckles Forest in Sri Lanka. Presented at the Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education, (ISLE) Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- Ram Alagan, 2004, Participatory Three Dimensional Geographic Information System Approaches to Environmental Decision-Making Process. University of Peradeniya Annual Research Conference
- Ram Alagan, 2004, Who Owns Knuckles Forest Anyway?: GIS map production and local communities struggle in Vedda's Land', Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya Annual Symposium
- 2002, Trevor Harris, Ram Alagan, and Jesse Rouse. *"Geo-visualization Approaches to Participatory Environmental Impact Assessment and Decision Making"* PPGIS Conference at Rutgers, NJ. 2002.
- 2002, Ram Alagan, Trevor Harris, and Jesse Rouse. *"Visualization Approaches to Community Participatory 3-Dimensional Modeling"* Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, 2002.
- 2000, Ram Alagan, Sewelo Keleagetse, Jesse Rouse, and Trevor Harris. *"Integrating Geographic Information systems and Environmental Impact Assessment for spatial Decision-Making"*, Association of American Geographers in New York City, 2000
- 2000, Ram Alagan, *"GIS and Natural Resources: Exploring Social Struggles in the Knuckles Forest, Sri Lanka"* UCGIS Conference in Portland OR 2000.
- 2000, Ram Alagan, *"GIS and Natural Resources: Exploring Social Struggles in the Knuckles Forest, Sri Lanka"* Association of American Geographers, Pittsburgh. PA, 2000
- 1999, Ram Alagan. *"Traditional Land-use Practice and Tropical Deforestation: Exploring GIS and Social Struggles Over Natural Forest in Sri Lanka"* East Lake - Division of AAG, Loudonville, OH. 1999.
- 1999, Ram Alagan, *"Mountain Top Removal and Social Impact in West Virginia"* Presented at the graduate seminar in Environmental Impact Assessment. Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University, 1999.
- 1999, Ram Alagan, *"Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment"* Presented at the graduate seminar in Environmental Impact Assessment. Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University. 1999.

Conference Poster Presentations

- 2007, Ram Alagan, GIS application for Agricultural Policy in Sri Lanka. Poster presented at the national symposium on agricultural economics at the PGIA.
- 2007, Ram Alagan, Virtual GIS presentation for University of Peradeniya, Poster presented at the University research session, 2007.

- 2003, Ram Alagan. Integrating Digital Ortho Quad Quadrangle and Interactive Geo-Visualization for Transportation Decision-Making: A case study the Appalachian Corridor H transportation development project, West Virginia.
- 2000, Sewelo Keleagetse, Ram Alagan, Jesse Rouse, and Trevor Harris. “Integrating GIS and Environmental Impact Assessment for Spatial Decision-Making” Presented at the Horizon Workshop, Eberly College of Arts and Science. West Virginia University, 2000.
- 2000, Ram Alagan. “GIS and Natural Resources: Exploring Social Struggles in the Knuckles Forest, Sri Lanka”. Summer GIScience Conference: University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), Portland OR, 2000.

Technical Documents

- 2008 Plan International : GIS Atlas for Plan International project development and monitoring
- 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature: GIS Atlas for Coastal Habitat Management, Sri Lanka
- 2007 Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka: GIS atlas for assessing environmental impacts
- 2007 Kalu Ganga EIA Report: Chapter on research methodology
- 2006 International Union for Conservation of Nature: GIS Atlas for Central Province Environmental Action Plan
- 2006 International Union for Conservation of Nature: GIS Atlas for Southern Province Environmental Action Plan
- 2006 Center for Environmental Studies: Prepared a fundamental of GIS reader and model for undergraduate, Peradeniya University
- 2006 FAO: Chapter on research methodology in Integrated Programme for The Rehabilitation of Tsunami – Affected Communities in the Districts of Hambantota, Ampara and Batticaloa in Sri Lanka
- 2005 Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware: The Indian Ocean Tsunami Preliminary Field Report on Sri Lanka
- 2005 Coastal Conservation Department, Sri Lanka: Madu Ganga Zoning Plan

External Funding and Projects

- 6/2006 – 6/2008 Kalu Ganga Reservoir Hydro Project, Mahaweli Authority, Sri Lanka, \$116,000
- 2007 Mapping Peradeniya Campus in GIS. Annual research Grant, University of Peradeniya, \$800
- 2006-2008 GIS based Coastal Habitat Management Project and Mapping, IUCN, \$14,500
- 2006 Environmental Action Plan, Asian Development Bank, \$2500
- 2005 Develop GIS databases for Community Development, Plan International, \$12,000
- 2006 Coastal Lagoon Zoning Plan in Southern Sri Lanka for Coastal Conservation Department, Sri Lanka. \$8,000

Award and Grant

- 2003 PhD Research Student Travel Grant (\$1600), Institute of Natural Resource Analysis Center (NRAC) WVU to attend ESRI conference in San Diego, California.
- 2003 PhD Graduate Assistantship in ArcIMS development for Coal Mining and Brown Field Re-development projects. Institute of Natural Resource Analysis Center, WVU.
- 1998-2003 Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship for Assistant Systems Administrator. Department of Geology and Geography. WVU.
- 7/ 2002 Ph.D Student Travel Grant, WVU, to attend PPGIS conference in Rutgers, New Jersey.
- 2/ 2002 Ph.D Student Travel Grant, WVU, to attend Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference, Los Angeles.
- 2/ 2002 West Virginia University Vehse Grant (\$500.00), to attend Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference, Los Angeles.
- 10/ 2001 Ph.D Student Travel Grant, WVU, to attend Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference, New York City, NY.
- 7/ 2000 Ph.D Student Travel Grant, WVU, to attend Summer GIScience conference: University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), Portland, Oregon.
- 6/2000 Travel Grant, UCGIS, to attend summer GIScience conference: University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), Portland, Oregon
- 4/ 2000 Ph.D. Student Travel Grant, WVU, to attend Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- 11/ 1999 Graduate Student Travel Award, WVU, to attend East Lake Division of AAG, Loudonville, Ohio.
- 7/ 1999 GIS Research Assistant Internship, Funded by American Electrical Power Company.
- 1998 to 2001 PhD, Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Geology and Geography, WVU.
- 4/ 1997 Graduate Assistantship in GIS, Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development (ILGARD), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.
- 1994 – 1996 **Fulbright Scholarship** for MA. Program in Environmental Geography, Ohio University. Ohio.

Professional Appointments and Employment

- 5/2006 to present: Senior GIS Consultant for ***International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)***
 - Responsibilities: Worked as Senior GIS consultant for a number of projects:
 - Geospatial database development for Habitat and Coastal Resource Mapping in Eastern District of Ampara, Sri Lanka
 - Habitat Mapping and Coastal Resource Restoration in North Western District, Sri Lanka
 - Geospatial database development (physical, social, environmental, infrastructure hydro, soil, and natural resource for Central Province, Sri Lanka
 - Geospatial database development (physical, social, environmental, infrastructure hydro, soil, and natural resource for Southern Province in Sri Lanka
 - Conducted three Geospatial/Geo-informatics training for IUCN staff

- 04/2006 - 07/07 GIS and Remote sensing Consultant for ***Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)*** in Sri Lanka for developing a Aquaculture Development in the Tsunami Impact Areas in Sri Lanka.
 - Responsibilities: Worked as Senior GIS consultant with tasks:
 - Developed GIS database with collaboration of Institute of Andra Pradesh Remote Sensing, India and University of Florence, Italy
 - Developed GIS based spatial decision support systems model for aquaculture development
 - Employed Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to locate tsunami inundated areas, soil and water related research in tsunami impact regions

- 4/2005 to present Senior GIS consultant for ***Plan International in Sri Lanka:***
 - Responsibilities: Worked as Senior GIS consultant in several project developments:
 - Supervised four member research team
 - Developed strategic plan for project monitoring and development via GIS application
 - Supervised MS Access database development
 - Developed GIS database to evaluate economic development and livelihood development in two district secretariats in Kandy District, Sri Lanka
 - Converting social map into digital GSI database
 - Mapping infrastructure development in the above two district level boundaries

- Developing a GIS based digital database for future spatial decision-making on child development
- 01/2006 – 02/2007 Senior GIS Consultant for Coastal Lagoon Zoning Plan in Southern Sri Lanka for ***Coastal Conservation Department, Sri Lanka***
 - Responsibilities: Worked as senior GIS research fellow in several project developments:
 - Developed zoning plan maps lagoon for conservation
 - Developed land use maps for tourism industry
 - Conducted GPS based field data collection with three research assistants
 - Employed GPS for capturing shrimp farming location
 - Mapped environmental impact areas, flood prone areas, and livelihood facilities.
 - Consulted three zoning plan management meetings to District level Government Officials, local community, religious leaders
 - Conducted Participatory GIS approach into zoning plan and presented to local and forest, wildlife department officials
 - All final productions (maps, atlas, and reports) were delivered in timely manner.
- 03/2004 – 03/2008 Senior Research Fellow: ***International Center for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka***
 - Responsibilities: Worked as senior social research fellow in several project developments:
 - Consulted tsunami disaster reconstruction, redevelopment, and rehabilitation project. Funded by World Vision and International Center for Ethnic Studies, Kandy
 - Worked as advisor to Sri Lankan and Tulane University research assistants on field research methodology in disaster situation
 - Developed GIS application for locating disaster areas, developing strategic plans on time schedules, meeting key informants, and traveling arrangements
- 02/2004 to present Senior Research Fellow: ***Center for Environmental Studies, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka***
 - Responsibilities: Worked as senior GIS, GPS, and Remote Sensing teaching and research fellow in several training and teaching projects:
- 07/2006 – 06/2008, Senior GIS fellow, Kalu Ganga (Black River – hydro electricity development) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Responsibilities:

- Developing GIS spatial database and atlas for project related environmental and social impacts
 - Employing Global Position System to capture spatial location of project development issues
 - Conducting participatory meeting with stakeholders
 - Organize field trips
 - EIA Reports writing
 - Coordinating project financial matters with Mahaweli Authority
 - Support consultants' research via GIS and GPS application
 - 2005 to 2008 Senior Lecturer for EIA training programs for undergraduates

- 08/2002 to 08/2003 GIS and ArcIMS Analyst: ***Natural Resources Analysis Center (NRAC), College of Agricultural Sciences. West Virginia University.***
 - RESPONSIBILITIES: developing ArcIMS applications and database management for coal mining and brown field redevelopment projects in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.
 - Project Scoping with the involved state parties, determining necessary data and personals to complete the project on time (including personal, data, software and hardware) as well as planning and documenting the project's methods and course of action.

- 04/2000 – 2002/08 GIS and ArcIMS Analyst - for Petroleum Technology Transfer Council and ***West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey - at West Virginia GIS Technical Center.***
 - RESPONSIBILITIES: Scoping the project with the involved parties, determining what resources would be necessary to complete the project on time (including personal, data, software and hardware) as well as planning and documenting the project's methods and course of action, which was provided to the client, my superiors and my colleagues.
 - Employed a host of useful technical methods to complete this web-based GIS project. The original data gathered to complete this project needed to be standardized. I utilized the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) standards to standardize and re-project the data for this particular area of concern (NAD 83 Zone 17 UTM). The re-projected data was then brought in ArcGIS 8.1 prior to ArcIMS to produce hard copy prints, conduct spatial analysis, visualization, and data verification. All of above data manipulation allowed me to build a

dynamic and interactive ArcIMS project. The default ArcIMS web site has been customized into a user-friendly graphical user interface. Also, I developed an HTML web site 'helpdesk' using MS front-page, which is presently displayed in the main page of the PTTC project.

- DEDICATION: Provided timely deliverables and throughout this process I maintained the necessary technical documentation, developed anticipated time-schedules for necessary data updates, and created metadata when necessary. The end result was an Internet map server built on the ESRI ArcIMS 3.1 platform. This project was completed on time and within the allotted budget. [Please go to (<http://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu/>) and navigate to PTTC Appalachian Region Oil and Gas Data].

Teaching Interests

- Geographic Information Science
- World Regional Geography
- GIS and Society
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- South Asia Geography
- Environmental Geography
- Geographic Thoughts
- Disaster Management
- Resource Management

Research Interests

- Geographic Information Science
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Internet GIS (Web-GIS)
- Participatory GIS
- Community Development
- Resource Management
- Disaster Management

Professional Memberships

- Association of American Geographers
- South Eastern Division of Association of American Geographers
- Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya
- International Center for Ethnic Studies
- Global Vision, Sri Lanka
- Geography Society, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Professional Services

- 2008, Senior treasurer, Geographic Society, University of Peradeniya
- 2008, Senior Student Advisor, University of Peradeniya,
- 2006, Member of the Kalu Ganga (Black River) EIA Project Management Committee,
- 2006, Course Unit Coordinator Faculty of Arts University of Peradeniya,
- 2006, Sports Advisor, University of Peradeniya,
- 2004 - 1997 Lecturer, American College, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- 2004 – 2005 Assistant Coordinator, Tulane University Linkage Program with International Center for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka
- 1986 - 1989 Language Instructor, US PEACE CORPS, Sri Lanka:
- 12/2004 to 03/2005, Senior Consultant at International Center for Ethnic Studies
- 2003 PhD Student Representative for faculty Selection Committee, Geography Department, West Virginia University

Special Skills

- Operating Systems: DOS; Windows 95, 98, 2000, Window NT, and XP

SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE

GIS SOFTWARES

ArcGIS 9.2
 ArcIMS
 ArcInfo 7-8
 ArcView 3.2
 ERDAS 8.6
 IDRISI
 Micro Station
 MapInfo
 Arc Edit and Arc plot
 AutoCAD

MICROSOFT SOFTWARES

Word XP
 Word 2000
 WordPerfect 2000
 Excel 2000
 Power Point 2000
 Front Page 2000
 Microsoft Access Database
 HTML
 Microsoft Outlook
 Word 2007

OTHER SOFTWARES

Adobe Photoshop 8.0
 Text Bridge
 Corel Draw 2000
 3D Earth Vision
 MrSid Comprise
 Field Surveying
 Data Desk
 Minitab 11 & Minitab 12
 S-Plus for Arcview
 JMP

Technical Skills

- Hardware and Software Installation and Performance Quality
- Computer network and windows operating systems
- Large scale drum scanning
- Plotter operating system
- Trimble and GeoExplorer GPS
- Large scale laminating machine operation
- File Transfer Protocol
- Adobe Photoshop based graphic development and enhancement