

# Sachintha Pitigala

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Department of Computer Science, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA

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## Personal Profile

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Experienced educator and researcher with over a decade of proven success in instructing undergraduate and graduate-level computer science courses. Adept at guiding students through research endeavors, having supervised 15 BSc theses, 05 MSc theses, 01 MPhil, and 01 PhD dissertation. Holds a track record of contributing to academic literature with the publication of 08 research articles in peer-reviewed journals and conferences.

## Education

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### PhD in Computational Science

Middle Tennessee State University

August 2010 - August 2016

Tennessee, USA

### MSc in Computer Science

Middle Tennessee State University

August 2010 - May 2013

Tennessee, USA

### BSc in Statistics with Computer Science

University of Colombo

June 2004 - October 2008

Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Teaching Experience

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### Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Department of Computer Science, Whitman College

September 2024 - Present

Washington, USA

- I am currently teaching CS 167 - Introduction to Computational Problem Solving and plan to offer two special topics courses: Artificial Intelligence and Applied Machine Learning.

### Senior Lecturer in Computer Science

Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Kelaniya

July 2017 - August 2024

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

- During my career of six years at the University of Kelaniya, I've conducted a total of ten undergraduate courses and two graduate courses, spanning a wide range of topics in computing. Introduction to Computer Science, Fundamentals of Programming, Programming in C, Advanced Programming Concepts, Software Engineering, Computer Architecture, Operating Systems, Compiler Design, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning are undergraduate-level courses. Data science and artificial intelligence are graduate-level courses.

### Visiting Lecturer in Data Science

Department of Statistics, University of Colombo

February 2018 - Present

Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Teach a course on Data Science that provides in-depth data science knowledge for senior undergraduates following majors in Statistics and Industrial Statistics.

### Visiting Lecturer in Computer Science

Institute of Informatics Technology (IIT)

July 2018 - August 2022

Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Taught Business Intelligence course for the Bachelor of Business Information Systems degree affiliated with the University of Westminster, UK. Also, taught an Artificial Intelligence course for the Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science degree affiliated with Robert Gordon University, UK

### Visiting Lecturer in Computer Science

Asian Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT)

July 2018 - August 2022

Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Taught Business Analytics course for the Master of Computer Science degree affiliated with Staffordshire University, UK.

### Visiting Assistant Professor in MCIS

Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Southern Arkansas University

July 2016 - June 2017

Arkansas, USA

- Taught Web Technology, Web Programming, and Software Engineering courses in the Master of Science in Computer and Information Science (MCIS) program.

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Computer Science, Middle Tennessee State University

August 2010 - May 2016

Tennessee, USA

- Taught Computer Science I (C++ / Python) and Computer Orientation courses for Computer Science majors and non-majors. Moreover, conducted closed lab sessions for the Computer Science II course.

## Temporary Instructor

Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Kelaniya

November 2009 - July 2010

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

- Conducted two undergraduate courses: namely Statistical Laboratory I (Minitab Statistical Software) and Web Programming (HTML, CSS, and JavaScript).

## Temporary Instructor

Department of Statistics, University of Colombo

October 2008 - October 2009

Colombo, Sri Lanka

- My Teaching/Recitation duties included providing supervision support for lab sessions for Statistics undergraduates and setting and grading assignments.

# Publications

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## JOURNAL ARTICLES

User Perceive Realism of Machine Learning-Based Drone Dynamic Simulator

Damitha Sandaruwan, Sachintha Pitigala, Mangalika Jayasundara, Nihal Kodikara, Piyumi Radeeshani

*International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications (IJACSA)* 14.1 (Feb. 2023) pp. 884–893. 2023

Machine Learning Based Approach to Simulate Drone Dynamics Related to Figure of Eight Maneuvering Pattern

Damitha Sandaruwan, Mangalika Jayasundara, Nihal Kodikara, Sachintha Pitigala

*European Journal of Computer Science and Information Technology* 7.5 (Oct. 2019) pp. 16–25. 2019

Automated Advertisements Classification System using Statistical Methods

Sachintha Pitigala, Nimal Wickremasinghe, Ruwan Weerasinghe

*University of Colombo Journals* 2.2 (July 2013) pp. 26–36. 2013

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Classification Based Filtering for Personalized Information Retrieval

Sachintha Pitigala, Cen Li

*The International Conference on Information and Knowledge Engineering (IKE'15)*, 2015, Las Vegas, USA

Extending PubMed Related Article (PMRA) for Multiple Citations

Sachintha Pitigala, Cen Li

*Industrial Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*, 2014, St. Petersburg, Russia

Investigating the Reliability of a Batting Ability Measurement System for T20 Cricket: An Application of Random Effects ANOVA through Generalizability Theory

Dammika Walpitage, Niranji Pathirage, Ruwan Chamara, Sachintha Pitigala, Gayan Silva

*International Conference of Institute of Applied Statistics*, 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Identifying Training Sets for Personalized Article Retrieval System

Cen Li, Sachintha Pitigala, Suk Seo

*ACM Southeast Regional Conference*, 2011, Kennesaw, GA, USA

A comparative study of text classification approaches for personalized retrieval in PubMed

Sachintha Pitigala, Cen Li, Suk Seo

*BIBM Workshops*, 2011, Atlanta, GA, USA

# Professional Experience

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## Course Coordinator of Master of Science in Computer Science Program

Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Kelaniya

September 2022 - Present

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

## Faculty Web Master

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

October 2018 - Present

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

## Resource Person for Artificial Intelligence

National Police Academy

September 2022 - Present

Negombo, Sri Lanka

## Departmental Coordinator, Corporate Plan Monitoring Committee (CPMC)

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

August 2018 - July 2021

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

## Team Lead, Curriculum Development Committee for MSc in Computer Science

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

July 2020 - January 2021

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Team Lead, Curriculum Development Committee for BSc in Data Science and Analytics**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

March 2019 - July 2020

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Team Lead, Curriculum Development Committee for BSc in Computer Science and BSc in Computer Studies**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

June 2018 - March 2019

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Faculty Research Coordinator, UGC – UNICEF Research on Ragging, Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

University of Kelaniya

July 2018 - June 2019

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

## Leadership Activities

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**Technical Committee Member / Session Chair, International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer) 2023**

University of Colombo School of Computing

January 2023 - Present

Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Technical Committee Chair, International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences (ICAPS 2021, ICPAS 2022)**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

January 2021 - November 2022

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Editorial Member, International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences (ICAPS)**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

August 2018 - Present

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Club Advisor, VIDE Students' Club and Community of Digital Explorers (CODE)**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

August 2022 - Present

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Club Advisor, Statistics & Computer Science Students' Association (SCSSA)**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

August 2018 - July 2021

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Student Counselor**

Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

August 2018 - July 2019

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

## Memberships

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**Member** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE)

**Member** Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)