

# NICOLE STOELINGA

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EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
VIA DELLE FONTANELLE 18  
50014 SAN DOMENICO DI FIESOLE  
ITALY

## Placement officer

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| PLACEMENT OFFICER | David K. Levine   |
| CONTACT           | <a href="mailto:david.levine@eui.eu">david.levine@eui.eu</a> / (+39) 0554685913 |

## Research Interests

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| PRIMARY   | Political economy, applied microeconomics.  |
| SECONDARY | Development economics and conflict studies. |

## References

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| <i>Supervisor:</i><br>Prof. David Levine<br>European University Institute<br>Via delle Fontanelle 18<br>50014 Fiesole, Italy<br><a href="mailto:david.levine@eui.eu">david.levine@eui.eu</a> | <i>Co-supervisor:</i><br>Prof. Thomas Crossley<br>European University Institute<br>Via delle Fontanelle 18<br>50014 Fiesole, Italy<br><a href="mailto:thomas.crossley@eui.eu">thomas.crossley@eui.eu</a> | <i>Teaching reference:</i><br>Prof. Giampiero Gallo<br>New York University<br>Via Bolognese 120<br>50139 Florence, Italy<br><a href="mailto:giampiero.gallo@nyu.edu">giampiero.gallo@nyu.edu</a> |
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## Education

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| 2017 - 2022 | <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i><br>European University Institute, Italy<br>Advisors: David Levine and Thomas Crossley   |
| 2022        | <i>Visiting scholar</i><br>Stanford University, USA   |
| 2021        | <i>Visiting scholar</i><br>University of Lausanne, Switzerland  |
| 2017 - 2018 | <i>M.Res. in Economics</i><br>European University Institute, Italy  |
| 2015 - 2016 | <i>M.Sc. in Economics</i><br>VU University, Netherlands<br>Specialization: International and macroeconomic policy |
| 2009 - 2012 | <i>B.Sc. in Communication Science</i><br>University of Amsterdam, Netherlands                                     |

## Job market paper

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### "Rebel governance, conflict and educational outcomes"

This paper studies the immediate and long-term effect of living in occupied territory and subsequent exposure to rebel governance on educational outcomes in the short and long run. This is done by focusing on the Boko Harams insurgency and the groups' temporary occupation of territory in North East Nigeria. The estimation relies on rich individual-level panel data and detailed information on occupation of territory by the rebel group. This paper finds that children subjected to Boko Haram's governance accumulated 0.66 years of education less throughout the occupation. The immediate effect is especially strong for children from Muslim households and those that were exposed to heightened levels of social pressure and violent enforcement of Boko Harams' anti-educational rule. In the long-run, after the occupation has ended, children are 26 percent less likely to attend school on average with especially girls and children from Muslim households being more likely to stay out of school. Various well-documented mechanisms affecting the demand and supply of education do not seem to explain the results, reinforcing the notion that the effects are driven by social identity and pressure, fear and intimidation.

## Publications

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### **"Estimating the Alliance Effect: a Synthetic Control Approach". *Defence Studies*, 2022.**

In a time of rising threat, recurring discussions about burden sharing within NATO and almost twenty years after the start of the 'war on terrorism', I explore a novel idea in the field of alliance and defense spending: the effect of alliance-membership on defense spending in response to a threat. Instead of estimating the determinants of defense spending or burden sharing among members, this paper focuses on two types of states (small and large) and how alliance membership shapes their response to threat. Using the synthetic control method, I create a comparison unit for each type consisting of a weighted average of non-NATO, European countries. 2001 is considered as the starting year of widespread threat, caused by a sudden increase in transnational terrorism. This way, I can estimate the 'alliance effect'. I find that both types of states have stronger (positive) response to threat as NATO members, compared to if they would not have been part of the alliance.

## Work in progress

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### **"Cultivation and competition in Colombia: disentangling the effects of coca price changes on violence". *Revise & resubmit, World Development*.**

Though there is evidence indicating that the presence of coca increases violence, changes to the price of coca products can have both negative and positive effects on conflict. This study addresses this matter, using novel data on local prices of coca products, production and supply chain differences. Using this data, it is possible to disentangle the returns to employment in the agricultural sector (coca cultivation) and employment in the criminal sector (being a member of a militia or armed group). This paper thereby identifies each agents' respective exposure to price changes, and estimates the effect of such changes on violence. The results show the presence of the opportunity cost effect: an increase in income from coca results in a reduction in violence. This reduction comes with an increase in school attendance for rural households. An increase in the objective prize leads to more violence. Moreover, armed groups flock to the area that witnesses an such an increase, resulting in higher levels of competition which coincides with the timing of the increase in violence. Additionally, increases in expected returns to joining a militia can potentially lead to a higher school dropout rate among children.

### **"The Olympic effect: fact or fiction?" (with Mustafa Kaba).**

Hosting the Olympic Games implies tremendous costs and uncertain profits, yet countries historically have been striving to host this mega event and bidding decisively until very recently. A prominent explanation for this puzzling interest is the so-called Olympic effect: the positive impact of the Olympics on international trade. In this paper, we estimate the Olympic effect on long-term exports using the synthetic control method. We show that the Olympic effect is more pronounced for countries that stand to gain from an international publicity. We also show that a substantial positive Olympic effect is only associated with the earlier games.

### **"Religious violence and the spread of ideology"**

Work in progress.

### **"Reputation signalling and contract-intensive industries" (with Mustafa Kaba).**

Work in progress.

## Teaching, research and professional experience

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### TEACHING POSITIONS

2019 - 2020                      *New York University*  
International Economics, Teaching Assistant for Giampiero Gallo

### RESEARCH

2020                                *Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies*  
Academic Assistant for David Levine

2017                                *Dutch Central Bank*  
Research Assistant for Iman van Lelyveld

2016 - 2017                      *VU University*  
Junior Researcher, Sociology department

2016                                *VU University*  
Research Assistant for Steven Poelhekke, Economics department

### OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2012-2015                        *LeasePlan Corporation*  
Various corporate communication roles

## Professional activities

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### CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2022 | Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference                                 |
| 2021 | University of Lausanne Public Economics and Policy Seminar                              |
|      | Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network on Conflict, Migration, and Displacement |
|      | 3rd International Conference on Globalization and Development                           |
|      | XXIII Applied Economics Meeting (ALdE)  |
|      | Canadian Economic Association Conference  |
|      | 69th Annual Meeting of the French Economic Association                                  |
|      | 91st International Atlantic Economic Conference   |
| 2020 | EUI Microeconometrics Working Group   |
| 2019 | Political Economy Conference  |

### WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

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| 2021        | <i>Summer School on the Political Economy of Conflict and Redistribution 2021.</i> Max Planck Institute. |
| 2019        | <i>Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education.</i> European University Institute.                      |
| 2016 - 2017 | <i>Mathematics and Statistics.</i> Leidse Onderwijs Instellingen (LOI).                                  |
| 2014        | <i>Intensive program, International Management.</i> Stanford University.                                 |

## Other

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### SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2020 - 2021 | PhD Completion Grant, European University Institute |
| 2017 - 2020 | Ph.D. Scholarship, NUFFIC                           |

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| LANGUAGES | Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (advanced), Italian (basic), French (basic) |
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| SOFTWARE | R, Stata, MATLAB, QGis, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X. |
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