

# NICOLE STOELINGA

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## Research Interests

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Applied microeconomics, development economics, international economics, political economy

## References

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David Levine	Thomas Crossley	Saumitra Jha
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## Education

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<b>European University Institute</b>	2017 - PRESENT
Ph.D. in Economics	
Expected completion date: Spring 2023	
<b>Stanford University</b>	2022
Visiting scholar	
<b>University of Lausanne</b>	2021
Visiting scholar	
<b>European University Institute</b>	2017 - 2018
M.Res. in Economics	
<b>VU University</b>	2015 - 2016
M.Sc. in Economics	
Specialization: International and macroeconomic policy	
<b>University of Amsterdam</b>	2015 - 2016
B.Sc. in Communication Science	

## Job market paper

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### “Education during conflict: the effect of insurgents’ occupation on schooling”

This paper studies the short and long-run effect of Islamic insurgents’ occupation on educational outcomes, by exploiting the temporary occupation of territory in North East Nigeria by Boko Haram. Comparing children exposed to the occupation and insurgency with children solely affected by the insurgency, the results show that children exposed to Boko Haram’s occupation accumulate 0.76 fewer years of education during, and are 29% less likely to return to school after, the occupation. Educational outcomes of Muslim children, who share a social identity with Boko Haram, decrease during the occupation, and this effect persists after the occupation has ended. Those experiencing social pressure to adhere to Boko Haram’s anti-educational rule suffer similar initial set-backs, but return to school later. Schooling outcomes of children that experienced school-targeted violence decrease in the short and long-run. Well-documented mechanisms linking exposure to violence and the demand and supply of education during conflict do not explain these results.

## 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.

## Working papers

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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. More recently though, countries are withdrawing their bids from the election procedure. This puzzling historical interest in hosting the games and the recent trend of withdrawals cast doubt on the existence of 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. The results also present the novel insight that a substantial positive Olympic effect is only associated with earlier games.

## Work in progress

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**“Religious violence and the spread of ideology”**

Work in progress.

**“Food insecurity, fragility and prices”**

Work in progress.

**“Reputation signalling and contract-intensive industries” (with Mustafa Kaba).**

Work in progress.

## Teaching experience

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New York University

International Economics, Teaching Assistant for Giampiero Gallo

2019 - 2020

## Research and professional experience

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<b>Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies</b> Academic Assistant for David Levine	2020
<b>Dutch Central Bank</b> Research Assistant for Iman van Lelyveld	2017
<b>VU University</b> Junior Researcher, Sociology department	2016 - 2017
<b>VU University</b> Research Assistant for Steven Poelhekke, Economics department	2016
<b>LeasePlan Corporation</b> Various corporate communication roles	2012 - 2015

## 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

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

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

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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