

# NICOLE STOELINGA

WEBSITE: [www.nicolestoelinga.com](http://www.nicolestoelinga.com)  
EMAIL: [nicole.stoelinga@eui.eu](mailto:nicole.stoelinga@eui.eu)

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

## Research Interests

---

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

## References

---

Prof. David Levine European University Institute Via delle Fontanelle 18 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy <a href="mailto:david.levine@eui.eu">david.levine@eui.eu</a>	Prof. Thomas Crossley European University Institute Via delle Fontanelle 18 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy <a href="mailto:thomas.crossley@eui.eu">thomas.crossley@eui.eu</a>
--	---

## Education

---

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

## Teaching, research and professional experience

---

### TEACHING POSITIONS

2019 - 2020	<i>New York University</i> International Economics, Teaching assistant for Giampiero Gallo
-------------	---

### RESEARCH

2020	<i>Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies</i> Academic Assistant for David Levine
2017	<i>Dutch Central Bank</i> Research Assistant for Iman van Lelyveld
2016 - 2017	<i>VU University</i> Junior Researcher, sociology department
2016	<i>VU University</i> Research Assistant for Steven Poelhekke, Economics department.

### OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2012-2015	<i>LeasePlan Corporation</i> Various corporate communication roles
-----------	---

## Professional activities

---

### CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2022	Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (scheduled)
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

---

### 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)

SOFTWARE R, Stata, MATLAB, QGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

## Research papers

---

### "LIVING IN THE CALIPHATE: THE IMPACT OF BOKO HARAM'S OCCUPATION ON SCHOOLING"

This paper estimates the effect of occupation during an insurgency and being exposed to insurgents' rule on schooling. This is done by focusing on the case of the Boko Haram insurgency in North East Nigeria. The terrorist group occupied various areas around 2014, and the population of those areas was subsequently exposed to the insurgents' ideology and governance. Other areas that were not occupied experienced comparable levels of violence, but no such intense levels of exposure to Boko Haram. Exploiting this fact I can estimate the effect of occupation on schooling using a difference-in-differences approach. The results indicate that children who experienced Boko Harams occupation have 1.20 years less education than those who experienced the insurgency but did not live in the caliphate. This corresponds to a 26 percent decrease of the number of years of education when compared to the average adult in the region. Various explanations for the decrease in schooling such as child labor, marriage, health and school supply are explored, but these do not seem to explain the results. However, there is evidence that future expectations towards the payoff of schooling, having a shared social identity with Boko Haram and social pressure, intimidation and fear drive the effects.

### "CULTIVATION AND COMPETITION IN COLOMBIA: DISENTANGLING THE EFFECTS OF COCA PRICE CHANGES ON VIOLENCE"

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 paper disentangles these contradicting forces. It identifies the main actors, namely farmers and armed groups, involved in the coca sector their respective exposure to price changes. The results show the presence of the opportunity cost effect: an increase in income of coca products for farmers leads to a reduction the total number of violent events, fatalities, paramilitary and guerilla attacks. This effect starts after one year but lasts for a few years after the initial increase in income. An average increase in the objective prize for armed groups leads to increases in violence

across the board. Moreover, armed groups flock to the area that witnesses an increase in the value of coca HCI, the coca derivative product which's production and trafficking is controlled by militias. This increase in competition takes place two years after the value of the objective prize went up, which coincides with the timing of the increase in violence.

"ESTIMATING THE ALLIANCE-EFFECT: DEFENSE SPENDING AND THREAT". *Under review, Defence Studies*. 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.

"RE-ESTIMATING THE OLYMPIC EFFECT: A SYNTHETIC CONTROL APPROACH" (with Mustafa Kaba): Work in progress.