

# 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

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

## Job market paper

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### "Living in the caliphate: the impact of Boko Haram's occupation on educational outcomes"

This paper estimates the effect of living in occupied territory during an insurgency and being exposed to insurgents' rule on educational outcomes. Focusing on the case of the Boko Haram insurgency in North East Nigeria, 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 1.24 years less education than those who experienced the insurgency but did not live in the caliphate, and additionally are 22 percent less likely to attend school in the years after the occupation. Various explanations for the decrease in schooling such as child labor, marriage, health, school supply, labor market trends and returns to education are explored, but these do not seem to explain the results. However, there is evidence that having a shared social identity with Boko Haram and peer or network effects, intimidation and fear drive the effects.

## 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). Proxies are developed for each of these concepts: income from coca cultivation for farmers, agricultural households and cultivators and the objective prize for armed groups and militias. 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.

### **"Re-estimating the Olympic Effect: a synthetic control approach" (with Mustafa Kaba).**

Hosting the Olympic games involves tremendous initial costs, yet countries still bid for it in the hopes of being awarded the games. A prominent explanation put forward in the previous literature for this seemingly puzzling interest is that hosting the Olympic games boosts exports and growth. In this paper, we outline potential pitfalls and problems with the various econometric methods used in this literature. We then address these issues by using the synthetic control method (SCM). Estimating the Olympic effect in a case-by-case manner using the SCM, we document that the Olympic effect is not a universal phenomenon but rather an idiosyncratic effect.

### **"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

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

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