

# 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>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>	2009 - 2012
B.Sc. in Communication Science	

## Additional coursework & short visits

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<b>University of Lausanne</b>	2021
Short visit to Prof. Dominic Rohner	
<b>Max Planck Institute</b>	2021
Summer School on the Political Economy of Conflict and Redistribution	
<b>European University Institute</b>	2019
Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education	
<b>Leidse Onderwijs Instellingen</b>	2016 - 2017
Mathematics and Statistics	
<b>Stanford University</b>	2014
Intensive program, International Management	

## Teaching experience

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<b>New York University</b> International Economics, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Giampiero Gallo	2019 - 2020
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## 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

## Conference and seminar presentations

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Stanford University Development Economics Seminar, Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA)	2022
University of Lausanne Public Economics and Policy Seminar, International Economics, 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	2021
EUI Microeconometrics Working Group	2020

## Academic service

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**Referee:** European Economic Review

## Grants and scholarships

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Department Visiting Grant (EUI)	2021
Early Stage Research Grant (EUI)	2020
Ph.D. Completion Grant (EUI)	2020
Ph.D. Scholarship (Nuffic)	2017 - 2020

## Other

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**Software:** R, Stata, MATLAB, QGis, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

**Languages:** Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (Advanced), Italian (basic), French (basic)

### **Education during conflict: the effect of territorial occupation by insurgents on schooling**

This study shows that civilians' behavior can be severely affected by territorial occupation by an insurgent group, and that these effects can persist after the government regains control and the occupation ends. I consider a framework of civilian cooperation with rebel governance, where civilians have the option to cooperate with, or resist, rules imposed by insurgents. I exploit the temporary occupation of territory in Nigeria by Boko Haram, an insurgent group with a strong anti-educational stance, as a quasi-natural experiment. Behavior is measured through school participation among children. Using individual-level panel data, I compare children exposed to the insurgency with children exposed to both the insurgency and occupation. The main results show (i) an immediate, negative effect on school participation, especially for those sharing a social identity with the insurgents, exposed to violent rule enforcement, and facing social pressure to conform, (ii) these negative effects persist in the long-run for the first and second group only. The effects cannot be explained by well-documented mechanisms linking conflict to lower school participation, demonstrating the need for accounting for occupation, and not solely violence, when considering the impact of insurgencies on civilians.

### **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. 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 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, Journal of International Development*.

Evidence indicates that the presence of coca in Colombian municipalities increases violence, while changes to the price of coca products can have both negative and positive effects on conflict. Using novel data on local prices of coca products, production and supply chains, I disentangle returns to employment in the agricultural and in the criminal sector and examine the effects of changes to these returns. I find suggestive evidence that higher income for cultivators leads to higher school attendance rates; but increasing returns in the criminal sector leads to school dropout rates, more violence, and increased competition among armed groups.

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

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.

- **Reputation Signalling and Exports in Contract-Intensive Industries** (with Mustafa Kaba)  
Reputation plays a crucial role in business and trade. In this paper, we argue that contract-intensive industries are more likely to suffer from a reputation trap due to their heavy reliance on relationship-specific inputs that are otherwise not sold on exchange. We then argue that a way out of this trap is to have a third-party organization signalling reputation on behalf of them. We test the effectiveness of this strategy using the Olympics Games as an instrument to signal reputation and to increase the export levels of contract-intensive industries. We find that hosting the Olympics lead to 20% increase in the exports of these industries compared to non-contract-intensive industries.
- **Shocks to international food prices: food security in sub-Saharan Africa**  
Can food prices explain food security? Survey data shows that less than 10% of people cite (high) prices as the first or second reason for experiencing food insecurity. This project examines drivers of food security and household fragility in conflict affected areas.
- **It was better back in my day: heterogeneity in support for democracy** (with Tuuli Tähtinen)  
This project focuses on explaining significant heterogeneity across age groups with respect to support for democracy and electoral participation, and considers to what extent (violent) protests and exposure to conflict can explain these differences.
- **Religious violence and the spread of ideology**  
This project focuses on the question of whether being confronted with sets of ideas, convictions and ideologies – such as religion – through conflict leads to shifts in the (reported) religion of individuals. Such an alignment could be either due to a genuine shift in preferences or strategic, as individuals try to avoid potential retaliation. I compare violence carried out by self-representing religious militias to violence carried out by groups that do not align themselves with a religion.