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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
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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 david.levine@eui.eu	Prof. Thomas Crossley European University Institute Via delle Fontanelle 18 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy thomas.crossley@eui.eu
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Education

2017 - 2022	<i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> European University Institute, Italy Advisors: David Levine and Thomas Crossley
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
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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
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Professional activities

CONFERENCES

2021	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^AT_EX.

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.

"TO FIGHT OR TO FARM: EFFECTS OF CHANGES TO INCOME AND OBJECTIVE PRIZE VALUE ON VIOLENCE IN COLOMBIA"

This study focuses on the effect of changes in the price of coca products on violence for two types of agents (farmers and armed groups). Coca presents different things for these agents: for those working in agriculture, it is a crucial source of income while it is a source of financing and forms an objective prize, worth fighting over, for armed groups. Using novel, detailed data, this study shows that in response to a price increase the two agents show contradicting responses: increases in the farmers income from coca results in lower levels of violence (the opportunity cost effect). An increase in the value of the product under control of armed groups leads to higher levels of competition and subsequently higher levels of violence (rapacity effect). These effects are estimated simultaneously, making this paper one of the first to explicitly address the different relationships these agents have with coca as well as incorporate local price and production differences.

"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.