Nicholas J. Wilson

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Economist and research consultant: development and political economy in East Africa. My focus area is fragility and state formation, and I often use geospatial data and tools. Managed fieldwork and conducted research studies in Kenya and South Sudan for the UN, World Bank, EU, IRC, Red Cross, and others.

EDUCATION

Nova School of Business and Economics   Lisbon, PT

PhD, Economics   2024-Present
- *Fields: Political Economy, Development Economics*
- *Advisor: Prof. Alex Armand*
- *Affiliation: NOVAFRICA knowledge center*

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München   Munich, DE

MSc, Economics   Grade: 1.14, *Sehr Gut* (Top ranked student)   2020-23
- *Advisor: Prof. Mathias Bühler*
- *Visiting student: Higher School of Economics - Moscow*

University of Warwick   Coventry, GB

BSc, Economics   Grade: 70, *First Class Honours*   2013-17
- *Visiting student: University of Amsterdam*

EXPERIENCE

OTHERwise Research   Remote

Technical Advisor   2024-Present
- Advise a Juba-based research firm: sampling, study design, fieldwork logistics, political economy.

Forcier Consulting   Juba, SS

Research Manager   2022-24
- Managed an office of 20 full-time staff conducting quant and qual research across South Sudan.

University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst   Remote

Research Assistant - Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang   2021-22

Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition   Munich, DE

Research Assistant - Lucy Xiaolu Wang, PhD   2020-21

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)   Nairobi, KE

Communications Consultant - Governance Unit   2019-20

OC&C Strategy Consultants   London, GB

Associate Consultant   2018-19

Magic Panda International 能猫国际集团   Shanghai, CN

International E-Commerce Intern   Winter 2017

Rothschild & Co   London, GB

Investment Banking Summer Intern   Summer 2016

SELECTED CONSULTANCIES

IRC: Education Research in Conflict and Protracted Crises (ERICC) in South Sudan (2023-25)
Coordinating large multi-year mixed methods research initiative into education policy in South Sudan.

Landell Mills: Evaluation of EU Cooperation in South Sudan, 2011-23 (2024)
Technical advice and data collection for major evaluation of European Union development assistance.

World Bank Group: 2024 Country Opinion Survey – South Sudan (2024)
Telephonic survey of WBG stakeholders in South Sudan to assess engagement, attitudes, outlook.

South Sudan Red Cross: Review of Income Generating Activities (2024)
Qualitative evaluation of opportunities for scaling income generating activities in 13 SSRC branches.

Norwegian Church Aid: Scoping Study on Agriculture Value Chains in South Sudan (2024)
Qualitative analysis of opportunities for agriculture value chain addition in 5 states of South Sudan.

IRC: Maternal and Child Health Baseline Study in Aweil East (2023-4)
Designed experimental methodology and conducted baseline study for a maternal health programme.

Against Malaria Foundation: TPM of South Sudan 2022/23 LLIN Distribution (2022-23)
Coordinated third-party monitoring in 7 states (5.4m nets) for a national LLIN distribution campaign.

UNHCR: Implementation of the Forced Displaced Survey (FDS) in South Sudan (2022-23)
Quality assured a major quantitative survey initiative assessing living conditions of displaced persons.

UNDP: Support to Devolved Governance in Kenya - Transformational Stories (2020)
Contributed analyses and edited a narrative review of UNDP's support to Kenya's devolution process.

PUBLICATIONS

U.S. State Approaches to Cannabis Licensing (with Lucy Xiaolu Wang) [2022] *International Journal of Drug Policy (IJDP), 106, 103755* [IJDP]; *MPI Research Paper* [SSRN]
Analysis of different state-level licensing and taxation policies for the US legal cannabis market.

WORKING PAPERS

Conflict's Long Shadow: Evidence on Education in Emergencies in South Sudan (with Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Maartje Schots, and Ceaser Taban) [2024] *ERICC Working Paper*
Systematic literature review identifying education in emergencies evidence gaps in South Sudan.

ERICC Research Agenda for South Sudan (with Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Oladele Akogun, Elifrida Twalihi, Maartje Schots, and Kur Kur Dut) [2024] *ERICC Working Paper* [Full Paper] [Brief]
Synthesis and description of education in emergencies research priorities for South Sudan.

Political Economy of Education System (In)coherence in South Sudan (with Olha Homonchuk, Alexandra Fortacz, and Tim Kelsall) [2024] *ERICC Working Paper* [Full Paper]
Education sector political economy analysis for South Sudan, conducted in collaboration with ODI.

Conflict, Fear, and Mistrust in Kenya's 'White Highlands' [2023] [SSRN]
MSc thesis: study of long-run effects of exposure to clientelist land reforms on social discord in Kenya.
Presented at: University of Edinburgh CAS/CeSeR 2024 Conference 2024 and ASAUK 2024 Conference.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Uncharted Waters: Climate Crisis, Floods, and Education System Resilience in South Sudan (with Lokiri Moses, Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Kur Kur Dut, Elifrida Twalihi, Thomas Hussein, and Oladele Akogun)
Qualitative analysis of education system preparedness against worsening floods in South Sudan.

The Animal and the Pen: Revisiting South Sudan's Pastoralist Education Program (with Mohammad Faisal, Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Kur Kur Dut, and Oladele Akogun)
Qualitative study analyzing education for diverse pastoralist communities across South Sudan.

Reflections on Participatory Research Approaches with Pastoralists and Policymakers in South Sudan (with Lokiri Moses, Ismael Hammoudi, Elifrida Twalihi, and Oladele Akogun)
Field note distilling lessons learned from engaging pastoralists and policymakers in South Sudan.

AWARDS, FUNDING, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Nova SBE: Nova SBE Research Fellowship   2024-28
IRC: Travel funding for CIES and BAICE conferences   2024
LMU VAC: Alumni Prize for Young Economists   2023
DAAD: Scholarship for Master Studies   2020-22
Erasmus+: Erasmus Study Abroad Grant   2015-16

MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Member: British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE)   2024-Present
Mentor: Malengo, Uganda-Germany Programme   2024-Present

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024: Comparative and International Education Society, University of Edinburgh CAS/CeSeR, ERICC/FCDO Consortium Meeting, ASAUK-Oxford Brookes, BAICE-University of Sussex

SKILLS

Computing: Stata (advanced), QGIS (advanced), Python (advanced), R (intermediate)
Data analysis: Data cleaning, regression analysis, GIS mapping/analysis, NLP (NLTK/Quanteda)
Field research: sample design, tool design, survey programming, training, budgeting, reporting
Languages: English (native), French (intermediate), German (intermediate), Turkish (intermediate)

PERSONAL

Citizenship: dual citizen of Ireland and the UK.

REFERENCES

Prof. Alex Armand
Professor
Nova School of Business and Economics
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
`alex.armand@novasbe.pt`

Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang
Assistant Professor
Department of Resource Economics
University of Massachusetts Amherst
`xiaoluwang@umass.edu`

Prof. Mathias Bühler
Assistant Professor
Chair of Economic History
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
`mathias.buehler@econ.lmu.de`

Dr. Rayner Tabetando
Economist
Cameroon Country Office
World Bank Group
`rtabetando@worldbank.org`