

# Nicholas J. Wilson

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[nj.wilson@outlook.com](mailto:nj.wilson@outlook.com)

[njwsn.github.io](https://njwsn.github.io)

Economist and research consultant: focus on development and fragility in East Africa. Conducted studies in Kenya and South Sudan for UNDP, UNHCR, World Bank, EU, IRC, IFRC, AMF, and others.

## EDUCATION

### **Nova School of Business and Economics**

PhD, Economics

Lisbon, PT

2024-Present

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

### **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München**

MSc, Economics

Grade: 1.14, *Sehr Gut* (Top ranked student)

Munich, DE

2020-23

- *Advisor: Prof. Mathias Bühler*
- *Visiting student: Higher School of Economics - Moscow*

### **University of Warwick**

BSc, Economics

Grade: 70, *First Class Honours*

Coventry, GB

2013-17

- *Visiting student: University of Amsterdam*

## EXPERIENCE

### **OTHERwise Research**

Technical Advisor

Remote

2024-Present

- Advise a Juba-based research firm: sample design, fieldwork logistics, political economy, outreach.

### **Forcier Consulting**

Research Manager

Juba, SS

2022-24

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

### **University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst**

Research Assistant - Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang

Remote

2021-22

### **Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition**

Research Assistant - Lucy Xiaolu Wang, PhD

Munich, DE

2020-21

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Communications Consultant - Governance Unit

Nairobi, KE

2019-20

### **OC&C Strategy Consultants**

Associate Consultant

London, GB

2018-19

### **Magic Panda International 熊猫国际集团**

International E-Commerce Intern

Shanghai, CN

Winter 2017

### **Rothschild & Co**

Investment Banking Summer Intern

London, GB

Summer 2016

## **SELECTED CONSULTANCIES**

### **IRC: Education Research in Conflict and Protracted Crises (ERICC) in South Sudan (2023-25)**

Coordinating large multi-year research initiative of education in emergencies (EiE) 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 global survey initiative assessing living conditions of displaced persons.

### **UNDP: Support to Devolved Governance in Kenya - Transformational Stories (2020)**

Contributed analyses for and edited a review of UNDP's support to Kenya's devolution process.

## **RESEARCH 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.

## **POLICY PUBLICATIONS**

### **ERICC: Towards An Evidence-driven EiE Research Agenda for South Sudan (with Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Oladele Akogun, Elifrida Twalihi, Maartje Schots, and Kur Kur Dut) [2024] *ERICC* [figshare]**

Synthesis and description of education in emergencies research priorities for South Sudan.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

### **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), ASAUk-Oxford Brookes (2024).*

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

### **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 Ismael Hammoudi, Mohammad Faisal, Elifrida Twalihi, and Oladele Akogun)

Field note distilling lessons learned from engaging pastoralists and policymakers in South Sudan.

## **Political Economy of the South Sudan Education System** (with Olha Homonchuk, Alexandra Fortacz, and Tim Kelsall)

Education sector political economy analysis for South Sudan conducted in collaboration with ODI.

## **Conflict's Long Shadow: Evidence on Education in Emergencies in South Sudan** (with Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Maartje Schots, and Ceaser Taban)

Systematic literature review identifying education in emergencies evidence gaps in South Sudan.

### **AWARDS, FUNDING, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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

### **MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE**

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

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**2024:** Comparative and International Education Society, University of Edinburgh CAS/CeSeR, ER-ICC/FCDO Consortium Meeting, ASAUk-Oxford Brookes, BAICE-University of Sussex

### **SKILLS**

**Computing:** Stata (advanced), Python (intermediate), R (intermediate), MATLAB (beginner)

**Analysis:** Data analysis in R/Stata, GIS analysis in Python/QGIS, Qual analysis/NLP in NVivo/Python/R

**Field research:** sample design, tool design, survey programming, enumerator training, budgeting

**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. Mathias Bühler**

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

#### **Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Resource Economics  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
xiaoluwang@umass.edu

#### **Dr. Rayner Tabetando**

Economist  
Cameroon Country Office  
World Bank Group  
rtabetando@worldbank.org