

Nicholas J. Wilson

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njwsn.github.io

PROFILE

Economist and research consultant: focus on fragility and social cohesion in 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

Lisbon, PT

PhD, Economics

2024-Present

- *Fields: Applied Micro, Development, Political Economy*
- *Advisor: Prof. Alex Armand*
- *Position: Nova SBE Research Fellow*

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 an Africa-focused research start-up on strategy, sampling, analysis, logistics, .

Forcier Consulting

Juba, SS

Research Manager

2022-24

- Managed an office of 20 full-time staff conducting quant and qual research across South Sudan.
- Fielded surveys, focus groups, and interviews, and analyzed development programs and policies.
- Advised clients, trained researchers, designed sampling, managed budgets, planned logistics.

University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst

Remote

Research Assistant

2021-22

- Research Assistant (RA) for Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang, conducting research in health economics.
- Activities included literature reviews, data cleaning and analysis, managed several junior RAs.

Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition

Munich, DE

Research Assistant

2020-21

- RA for Prof. Lucy Xiaolu Wang, conducting research in health and innovation economics.
- Activities included literature reviews, data cleaning and analysis, management of a junior RA.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Nairobi, KE

Communications Consultant

2019-20

- Communications and Partnerships focal point for Governance & Inclusive Growth projects in Kenya.

OC&C Strategy Consultants
Associate Consultant

London, GB
2018-19

Magic Panda International 能猫国际集团
International E-Commerce Intern

Shanghai, CN
Winter 2017

Rothschild & Co
Investment Banking Summer Intern

London, GB
Summer 2016

SELECTED CONSULTANCIES

Evaluation of EU Cooperation in South Sudan, 2011-23 (2024)

Contracted by Landell Mills to provide technical advice and conduct fieldwork for a major evaluation of European Union humanitarian and development assistance to South Sudan since independence.

World Bank Group 2024 Country Opinion Survey – South Sudan (2024)

Contracted by the World Bank (WBG) to administer a quantitative survey to a cross-section of the Bank's different stakeholders across South Sudan to assess engagement, attitudes, and outlook.

Scoping Study on Agriculture and Food Security Value Chains in South Sudan (2024)

Contracted by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) to undertake a qualitative analysis of the landscape, challenges, and opportunities for agriculture value chain addition in 5 states of South Sudan.

Maternal and Child Health Baseline Study in Aweil East (2023-4)

Contracted by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to design an experimental methodology and conduct a survey for a maternal health and newborn care programme in Aweil East, South Sudan.

Education Research in Conflict and Protracted Crises (ERICC) in South Sudan (2023-24)

Contracted by IRC to synthesize and explore education in emergencies research priorities for South Sudan through a literature review, mixed methods fieldwork, and workshops with key stakeholders.

Third-Party Monitoring of South Sudan 2022/23 LLIN Distribution Campaign (2022-23)

Contracted by the Against Malaria Foundation (AMF) to monitor planning, distribution, and verification activities for a national campaign to distribute 5.4m mosquito nets in 7 states of South Sudan.

Implementation of the UNHCR Forced Displaced Survey (FDS) in South Sudan (2022-23)

Contracted by UNHCR to implement a major global survey initiative in South Sudan assessing living conditions of IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and returnees in camps and host communities.

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

Contracted by UNDP to contribute analyses and edit a narrative review of their support to implementation of the devolution process across Kenya, which included conducting fieldwork in 6 counties.

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

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.

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.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Revisiting Education for Pastoralist Communities in South Sudan (with Ioanna Wagner Tsoni, Oladele Akogun, Mohammad Faisal, and Kur Kur Dut)
Qualitative study analyzing education for diverse pastoralist communities across South Sudan.

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

Education sector PEA for South Sudan conducted with the Overseas Development Institute (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

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: CIES, University of Edinburgh CAS/CeSeR, ERICC/FCDO Consortium Meeting, ASAUk-Oxford Brookes, BAICE-University of Sussex

SKILLS

Quant analysis: Stata (advanced), QGIS (advanced), Python (intermediate), R (intermediate)

Qual analysis: Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Python (NLTK) and R (Quanteda), NVivo

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 available on request