

Nik Stoop

CONTACT

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Other affiliations:

- University of Leuven: Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance
- University of Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit
- University of Bukavu, DR Congo: Expertise Centre on Mining Governance

PERSONAL

Date of birth: 1 August 1986

Citizenship: Belgian

Languages: Dutch (native), English (proficient), French (fluent), Italian (basic)

POSITIONS

Post-doctoral researcher (Oct. 2018 – present)

Institute of Development Policy (U. of Antwerp)

Senior Research Fellow (Oct. 2017 – present)

Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance (U. of Leuven)

Consultant (Oct. 2017 – Sept. 2018)

C-lever.org

Visiting Researcher (Jan. 2018 – June 2018)

Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit (U. of Cape Town)

Junior Consultant (Dec. 2009 – Sept. 2010)

Stoop Consulting bvba

Volunteer / Researcher (Aug. 2009 – Nov. 2009)

European Committee for Agriculture and Training (CEFA)

EDUCATION

PhD in economics (U. of Leuven)

PhD in development studies (U. of Antwerp)

Joint PhD, Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2017; Advisors: M. Verpoorten and J. Swinnen

Thesis: 'Essays in Development Economics: Case Studies from Benin and the DR Congo'

Visiting PhD researcher (May 2017 – August 2017)

Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit (U. of Cape Town)

M. Sc. in Advanced Studies in Economics

University of Leuven, Oct. 2010 – Sept. 2011, *magna cum laude*

M.A. in Development Economics and International Cooperation

University of Rome, Tor Vergata, Oct. 2008 – Sept. 2009, *summa cum laude*

M.A. of Communication Sciences

University of Leuven, Oct. 2007 – Sept. 2008, *magna cum laude*

B.A. of Communication Sciences

University of Leuven, Oct. 2004 – Sept. 2007, *cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Risk, envy and magic in DRC's artisanal mining sector: insights into the 'Modernity of Witchcraft'. **Development & Change**, 2020. With M. Verpoorten
- 2019 Artisanal or Industrial conflict minerals? Evidence from eastern DR Congo. **World Development**, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt
- Voodoo, vaccines and bed nets. **Economic Development and Cultural Change**, 2019, 67(3). With M. Verpoorten and K. Deconinck
- 2018 More legislation, more violence? The impact of Dodd-Frank in the DRC. **PLoS ONE**, 2018, 13(8): e0201783. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.
- 2017 Defusing the social minefield of gold sites in Kamituga, South Kivu. From legal pluralism to the re-making of institutions? **Resources Policy**, 2017, 53, 356-368. With K. Buraye and M. Verpoorten.
- 2016 To fish or not to fish? Resource degradation and income diversification in Benin. **Environment and Development Economics**, 2016, 21(05), 669-689. With R. Houssa and M., Verpoorten.
- 2013 Self-reported food insecurity in Africa during the food price crisis. **Food Policy**, 2013, 39, 51-63. With M. Verpoorten, A. Arora, and J. Swinnen.

UNDER REVIEW

Would you fight? An inquiry among high-risk youth in eastern DRC. With M. Verpoorten

WORKING PAPERS, MEDIA & POLICY BRIEFS

- 2020 The Super-Natural is Super-Rational. IOB Blog, 2020. With M. Verpoorten.
- 2019 Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? *IOB Policy Brief* 39, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.
- The way that minerals are mined affects conflict in eastern Congo. *The Conversation*, 29/07/2019 With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.

Artisanal or Industrial conflict minerals? Evidence from Eastern Congo. Households in Conflict Network, *HiCN Working Paper* 308, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.

“More Legislation, More Violence? The Impact of Dodd-Frank in the Democratic Republic of the Congo” 2019. *Cato Institute - Research Briefs in Economic Policy* 145. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.

Exploring psychological well-being and poverty dynamics in South-Africa: evidence from NIDS waves 1-5. *NIDS Discussion Paper* 2019/07. With M. Leibbrandt and R. Zizzamia

2018 “Trump threatened to suspend the ‘conflict minerals’ provision of Dodd-Frank. That might actually be good for Congo” 2018. *Washington Post – The Monkey Cage*. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.

Voodoo, vaccines and bed nets. Magico-religious beliefs affect health behavior in Benin. *IOB Policy Brief*, 2018, 29. With M. Verpoorten.

2016 Relocation, reorientation, or confrontation? Insights from a representative survey among artisanal miners in Kamituga, South-Kivu. *IOB Working Paper*, 2016, 09. With M. Verpoorten and K. Buraye.

2015 Rélocation, réorientation, ou confrontation? Aperçus à partir d’un sondage représentatif des mineurs artisanaux à Kamituga, Sud-Kivu. *IOB Working Paper*, 2016, 10. With M. Verpoorten and K. Buraye.

The social minefield of gold digging in South-Kivu, DRC: The case of Kamituga. *IOB Policy Brief*, 2015, 10. With K. Buraye and M. Verpoorten.

The social minefield of gold digging in Kamituga, South-Kivu. *Amani Itakuya II essay series*, 2015, essay 14. With M. Verpoorten and K. Buraye.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Violent displacement and empathy. The determinants of hosting in Eastern Congo. With P. van der Windt

Jobs and stability in North-Kivu, DRC: evidence from a policy experiment. With M. Verpoorten.

Standards, transparency and accountability in the mining sector: a review of intended and unintended consequences. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.

Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out by Virunga Alliance in Eastern Congo. With M. Verpoorten and E. Lunanga.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Three-year post-doctoral fellowship, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- 2018 Scientific Prize McKinsey & Company, Nov. 2018
Award of € 5,000 in recognition of original PhD research with socio-economic relevance.
Awarded through Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).
- 2015 Two-year renewal of PhD fellowship, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- 2013 Two-year PhD fellowship, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- 2012 One-year PhD fellowship, U. of Antwerp University Research Fund (BOF)
- 2011 Four-year PhD fellowship, University of Leuven (taken up for one year)

GRANTS

- 2019 University Research Fund (BOF), as co-promotor
Grant to fund a four-year PhD track

Anonymous donor, as co-PI
\$ 310,600 grant for an impact evaluation in the DRC

University Research Fund (BOF)
€ 7,500 grant to conduct fieldwork in the DRC
- 2017 Global Minds (VLIR-UOS)
Grant for a visiting research stay at SALDRU, U. of Cape Town
- 2013 IOB Research Fund
€ 7,000 grant to conduct fieldwork in the DRC

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 EUDN PhD workshop (U. of Leuven) / WGAPE (U. of Cape Town) / PhD seminar IOB (U. of Antwerp) / EOS seminar (U. of Antwerp)
- 2018 Fruit for thought seminar IOB (U. of Antwerp, 2018) / SALDRU seminar (U. of Cape Town, 2018)
- 2017 International Mining Conference (U. of Ghent, 2017)
- 2016 UNU-WIDER Development Conference (Helsinki, 2016)
- 2015 Conference on Mining, conflict and post-conflict reconstruction in Eastern DRC (U. of Antwerp) / Workshop on natural resource management (U. of Abomey-Calavi Benin) / IOB research day (U. of Antwerp) / Round table on Extractive Industries, CSR and Development (U. of Antwerp)

- 2014 ASREC conference on the Economics of Religion (Chapman U. California) / LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven)
- 2013 IOB research day (U. of Antwerp: 2015 & 2013) / LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven) / CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa (Oxford U.) / European Association of Agricultural Economists (U. of Leuven)
- 2012 LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven)

FIELDWORK & VISITING RESEARCH STAYS

- 2019 **DR Congo**, Feb. Baseline survey for the impact evaluation of an electrification project in North-Kivu.
- 2018 **DR Congo**, Nov. Defining sampling strategy and survey pilot for the impact evaluation of an electrification project in North-Kivu.
- South-Africa**, Jan. – June. Visiting research stays at the Southern Africa Labor & Development Research Unit of the University of Cape Town.
- 2017 **South-Africa**, May – August. Visiting research stays at the Southern Africa Labor & Development Research Unit of the University of Cape Town.
- 2015 **Benin**, Dec. Presentation at a workshop on natural resource management. Visit to fishing communities in preparation for the upscaling of a behavioral field experiment.
- DR Congo**, March – May. Structured survey among 470 miners in an artisanal gold mining site in South-Kivu.
- 2014 **DR Congo**, Dec. Semi-structured interviews and survey pilot in two artisanal gold mining sites in South-Kivu.
- DR Congo**, May – June. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions in Bukavu and an artisanal gold mining site in South Kivu.
- 2013 **Benin**, March – Apr. Surveys and pilot of a behavioral field experiment in the framework of a study on natural resource management, social preferences and religion among fishing communities.
- 2009 **Tanzania**, Aug. – Nov. Household surveys in the Southern highlands of Tanzania to assess factors hindering the development of rural income generating activities.

CONSULTANCY

As an academic:

- Member of the selection jury for the Director Sectoral and Thematic Expertise of Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency (Nov. 2018).
- Member of the OECD Advisory Group tasked with validating the OECD Minerals Guidance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Nov. 2018 – present).

As a consultant with C-lever.org and Stoop Consulting:

- Management analysis of the department that makes verbatim reports of the proceedings in the Flemish parliament (2017-2018).
- IFC (*International Finance Corporation*) - GCGF (*Global Corporate Governance Forum*) assignment in support of the Malawi Country Action Plan on Corporate Governance (2010).
- BTC (*Belgian Technical Cooperation*) reformulation of the Junior Program for the Belgian Development Cooperation (2010).
- FICA (*Flemish International Cooperation Agency*) Evaluation of ‘Go North’, a project of Unizo International aimed at capacity enhancement of SME’s in Southern Africa and at promoting export from South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi (2010).
- VLABEST (*Flemish Advisory Council on Public Administration*) facilitation of the ‘Working Group on External Audit of Local and Provincial Governments in the Flanders’ (2010).
- VVOB (*Development Cooperation in the education sector*) evaluation of the VVOB education programs in nine partner countries (2009-2010).

TEACHING

‘Topics in Development Studies’. Undergrad students, University of Antwerp.
Fall 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 & 2019.

‘Development Economics’. Undergrad students, University of Leuven.
Fall 2019.

‘Quantitative Development Evaluation’. Grad students, University of Antwerp.
Spring 2020.

REVIEWER

World Development, Resources Policy, International Journal of Conflict Management,
BMC International Health and Human Rights, Review of Economics of the Household,
Annuaire des grands lacs, Conjoncture de l’Afrique Centrale

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Office, Stata, ArcGIS, QGIS, CAPI (Surveybe, ODK, Kobo)

REFERENCES

Marijke Verpoorten. Associate Professor. Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp. marijke.verpoorten@uantwerp.be

Jo Swinnen. Full Professor. Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance, University of Leuven. jo.swinnen@kuleuven.be

Peter van der Windt. Assistant Professor. Division of Social Science, New York University – AD. petervanderwindt@nyu.edu

Dominic Parker. Associate Professor. Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison. dominic.parker@wisc.edu