

# Nik Stoop

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## CONTACT

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Other affiliations:

- Research Foundation Flanders – FWO
- 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), Kiswahili (beginner)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I try to address policy relevant questions through empirical microeconomics. My research centers around sustainable development, with a focus on green energy, natural resources, health and forced displacement.

## POSITIONS

**FWO Senior Research Fellow** (Oct. 2022 – present)

Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) & University of Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy

**FWO Junior Post-doctoral Research Fellow** (Oct. 2018 – Sept. 2022)

Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) & University of Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy

**Visiting Post-doctoral Researcher** (Jan. 2018 – June 2018)

University of Cape Town, Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit

## EDUCATION

**PhD in economics** (University of Leuven)

**PhD in development studies** (University 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)  
University of Cape Town, Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit

**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

- [11] **Stoop, Nik**, Kalle Hirvonen, and Jean-François Maystadt. 2021. “Institutional mistrust and child vaccination coverage in Africa”. **BMJ: Global Health** 6 (4): e004595.
- [10] **Stoop, Nik**, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2021. “Would you fight? We asked aggrieved artisanal miners in Eastern Congo.” **Journal of Conflict Resolution** 65 (6): 1159–86.
- [9] **Stoop, Nik**, Sébastien Desbureaux, Audacieux Kaota, Elie Lunanga, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2021. “Covid-19 vs. Ebola: Impact on Households and Small Businesses in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.” **World Development** 122 (October): 660–74.
- [8] Geenen, Sara, **Nik Stoop**, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2021. “How Much Do Artisanal Miners Earn? An Inquiry among Congolese Gold Miners.” **Resources Policy** (October): 101893.
- [7] **Stoop, Nik**, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2020. “Risk, Envy and Magic in the Artisanal Mining Sector of South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.” **Development and Change** 51 (5): 1199–1224.
- [6] **Stoop, Nik**, Marijke Verpoorten, and Peter van der Windt. 2019. “Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? Evidence from Eastern Congo.” **World Development** 122 (October): 660–74.
- [5] **Stoop, Nik**, Marijke Verpoorten, and Koen Deconinck. 2019. “Voodoo, Vaccines, and Bed Nets.” **Economic Development and Cultural Change** 67 (3): 493–535.
- [4] **Stoop, Nik**, Marijke Verpoorten, and Peter van der Windt. 2018. “More Legislation, More Violence? The Impact of Dodd-Frank in the DRC.” **PLOS ONE** 13 (8): e0201783.
- [3] Kilosho Buraye, Janvier, **Nik Stoop**, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2017. “Defusing the Social Minefield of Gold Sites in Kamituga, South Kivu. From Legal Pluralism to the Re-Making of Institutions?” **Resources Policy** 53 (September): 356–68.
- [2] **Stoop, Nik**, Romain Houssa, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2016. “To Fish or Not to Fish? Resource Degradation and Income Diversification in Benin.” **Environment and Development Economics** 21 (5): 669–89.

- [1] Verpoorten, Marijke, Abhimanyu Arora, **Nik Stoop**, and Johan Swinnen. 2013. “Self-Reported Food Insecurity in Africa during the Food Price Crisis.” **Food Policy** 39 (April): 51–63.

#### UNDER REVIEW

- [1] Who Hosts? The Correlates of Hosting the Internally Displaced. With P. van der Windt and L. Peishakin – Revisions requested by **American Political Science Review**
- [2] Presidents and vaccines. Head of state inoculation as a tool against vaccine hesitancy. With L. Collart, E. Lunanga and M. Verpoorten
- [3] You Go, I Stay: Intra-household evacuation behavior during Goma’s volcano eruption threat. With E. Maombi, E. Lunanga and M. Verpoorten

#### MEDIA & POLICY BRIEFS

- [12] Low trust in authorities affects vaccine uptake: evidence from 22 African countries. **The Conversation**, 2021. With J.F. Maystadt and K. Hirvonen.
- [11] Conflict Minerals Legislation: Shooting at the Wrong Target ... Again. **Political Violence at a Glance**, 2021. With M. Verpoorten.
- [10] Covid-19 vs. Ebola: High stakes for Eastern DRC. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With S. Desbureaux, A. Kaota, E. Lunanga and M. Verpoorten.
- [9] Artisanal gold mining pays. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With S. Geenen and M. Verpoorten.
- [8] The Super-Natural is Super-Rational. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With M. Verpoorten.
- [7] Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? **IOB Policy Brief** 39, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.
- [6] The way that minerals are mined affects conflict in eastern Congo. **The Conversation**, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.
- [5] 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.
- [4] Trump threatened to suspend the ‘conflict minerals’ provision of Dodd-Frank. That might actually be good for Congo. **Washington Post – The Monkey Cage**, 2018. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt.
- [3] Voodoo, vaccines and bed nets. Magico-religious beliefs affect health behavior in Benin. **IOB Policy Brief**, 2018, 29. With M. Verpoorten.
- [2] 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.
- [1] The social minefield of gold digging in Kamituga, South-Kivu. **Amani Itakuya II essay series**, 2015, essay 14. With M. Verpoorten and K. Buraye.

## WORKING PAPERS (SELECTION)

- [2] 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
- [1] 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.

## WORK IN PROGRESS (SELECTION)

- [8] Electric Cooking and Sustainable Development: Experimental evidence from Eastern DR Congo. With S. Desbureaux, L. Collart, M. Verpoorten, R. Soubeyran, and M. Couttenier. PAP, 2022, AEA RCT Registry [www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/10099](http://www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/10099).
- [7] The Determinants of Assistance to Refugees? Ukrainian and Syrian refugees in Poland. With V. Charnysh, L. Peisakhin and P. van der Windt. PAP, 2022, EGAP Registry <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/YDGXW>.
- [6] Where to flee? Exploring household-level destination choices during displacement in the Kasai, DRC. With P. van der Windt and S. Weber. PAP, 2023, EGAP registry <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/7DP35>
- [5] Whom to host? A meta-analysis of previous work and new evidence from the Congo. With P. van der Windt and S. Weber. PAP, 2023, EGAP registry <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/KYX37>
- [4] Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out in Eastern Congo. With E. Lunanga, E. Maombi and M. Verpoorten. PAP, 2023, EGAP registry <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/29SWK>
- [3] Jobs and stability in North-Kivu, DR Congo: evidence from a policy experiment. With M. Verpoorten
- [2] Who connects to the grid? Exploring electricity demand in North-Kivu, Eastern DRC. With E. Lunanga, S. Desbureaux and M. Verpoorten.
- [1] Displacement and Disenfranchisement: Conjoint Evidence from the DRC. With A.J. Harris and P. van der Windt.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

- [1] McKinsey & Company and Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). Nov. 2018. Scientific Prize McKinsey & Company. Award of € 5,000 in recognition of original PhD research with socio-economic relevance.

## FELLOWSHIPS

- [4] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 302,718. Three-year senior post-doctoral fellowship. “*The promise of eCooking : improving livelihoods, decreasing deforestation, and promoting peace. Experimental evidence from Eastern Congo*”. 2022-2025, [ongoing](#).
- [3] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 248,828. Three-year junior post-doctoral fellowship. “*The multidimensional impact of rural and urban electrification: economic development, security and conservation? Evidence from Eastern Congo*”. 2019-2022, [completed](#).
- [2] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 88,074. Two-year renewal of PhD fellowship. 2015-2017, [completed](#).
- [1] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 84,378. Two-year PhD fellowship. “*Why fight? A study on the nexus between mineral resources, conflict and employment opportunities in the mining sector of South-Kivu, DRC*”. 2013-2015, [completed](#).

## GRANTS

- [11] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 95,463. Co-PI. With M. Verpoorten. Grant to fund a two-year PhD track. “*Turning up the heat. Second-round effects of a green intervention in Eastern DR Congo*.” 2022-2024, [ongoing](#).
- [10] AFD – FID (Fund for Innovation in Development). € 114,070. Co-PI. With S. Desbureaux, M. Verpoorten, R. Soubeyran and M. Couttenier. “*Recipe for a green future: The economics of combatting illegal charcoal trafficking with energy-efficient cookers*.” 2022-2023, [ongoing](#).
- [9] PEDL – CDC (Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries & the UK Government’s development finance institution). £ 36,750. Co-PI. With S. Desbureaux, M. Verpoorten, and M. Couttenier. “*eCooking for Sustainable Development: Experimental Evidence from Eastern Congo*.” 2022-2023, [ongoing](#).
- [8] Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (World Bank & UNHCR). \$ 363,300. Co-PI. With P. Van der Windt and UNHCR. Socio-economic survey in the Grand Kasai, DR Congo: Focus on IDPs, returnees and host communities. 2021-2023, [ongoing](#).
- [7] Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. \$ 250,000. Co-PI. With Atlas AI and M. Verpoorten. Grant to explore the extent to which satellite- and machine-learning based estimates can complement survey-based outcome measurements 2021-2023, [ongoing](#).
- [6] Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). € 364,235. Co-PI. With M. Verpoorten “*The multidimensional impact of rural and urban electrification: economic development, security and conservation? Follow-up research in Eastern Congo*.” 2021-2024, [ongoing](#).
- [5] University Research Fund (BOF). € 195,000. Co-PI. With M. Verpoorten. Grant to fund a four-year PhD track. “*The multidimensional impact of rural and urban electrification: economic development, security and conservation? Evidence from Eastern Congo*”. 2019-2023, [ongoing](#).

- [4] Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. \$ 310,600. Co-PI. With M. Verpoorten. Grant for an impact evaluation in the DRC. “*Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out by Virunga Alliance in Eastern Congo*”. 2019-2023, ongoing.
- [3] University Research Fund (BOF). PI. € 7,500 grant to conduct fieldwork in the DRC. 2019, completed.
- [2] Global Minds (VLIR-UOS). PI. € 2,600 grant for a visiting research stay at the University of Cape Town. 2017, completed.
- [1] IOB Research Fund. PI. € 7,000 grant to conduct fieldwork in the DRC. 2013, completed.

## PRESENTATIONS

ECD seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2023); AIPRIL symposium (U. of Antwerp, 2022); Summer school Sustainable City (U. of Antwerp, 2022); Summer school on natural resources (U. of Bukavu, DRC, 2022); Great Lakes of Africa Centre seminar (2022); Fruit For Thought seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2022); WGAPE (U. of Cape Town, 2019); PhD seminar IOB (U. of Antwerp, 2019); EOS seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2019); Fruit for thought seminar IOB (U. of Antwerp, 2018); SALDRU seminar (U. of Cape Town, 2018); International Mining Conference (U. of Ghent, 2017); UNU-WIDER Development Conference (UNU-WIDER Helsinki, 2016); Conference on Mining, conflict and post-conflict reconstruction in Eastern DRC (U. of Antwerp, 2015); Workshop on natural resource management (U. of Abomey-Calavi Benin, 2015); IOB research day (U. of Antwerp, 2015); Round table on Extractive Industries, CSR and Development (U. of Antwerp, 2015); ASREC conference on the Economics of Religion (Chapman U. California, 2014); LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven, 2014); IOB research day (U. of Antwerp, 2013); LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven, 2013); CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa (Oxford U., 2013); European Association of Agricultural Economists (U. of Leuven, 2013); LICOS seminar (U. of Leuven, 2012)

## FIELDWORK & VISITING RESEARCH STAYS

- [12] **DR Congo**, March 2023. Follow-up survey for an RCT on eCookers.
- [11] **DR Congo**, June – July 2022. Presentation at summer school, baseline survey for an RCT on eCookers, and endline survey for the impact evaluation of an electrification project.
- [10] **DR Congo**, Feb. 2019. Baseline survey for the impact evaluation of an electrification project in North-Kivu.
- [9] **DR Congo**, Nov. 2018. Defining sampling strategy and survey pilot for the impact evaluation of an electrification project in North-Kivu.
- [8] **University of Cape Town**, Jan. – June 2018. Visiting research stay at the Southern Africa Labor & Development Research Unit.
- [7] **University of Cape Town**, May – August 2017. Visiting research stay at the Southern Africa Labor & Development Research Unit.

- [6] **Benin**, Dec. 2015. Presentation at a workshop on natural resource management. Exploratory visit to fishing communities.
- [5] **DR Congo**, March – May 2015. Structured survey among artisanal miners in a gold mining site.
- [4] **DR Congo**, Dec. 2014. Semi-structured interviews and survey pilot in two artisanal gold mining sites.
- [3] **DR Congo**, May – June 2014. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions in Bukavu and an artisanal gold mining site.
- [2] **Benin**, March – April 2013. Structured survey among artisanal fishing communities and pilot of a behavioral field experiment.
- [1] **Tanzania**, Aug. – Nov. 2009. Household surveys and interviews to assess factors hindering the development of rural income generating activities.

#### **ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY**

- Member of the Virunga Foundation Academic Sounding Board (2018 – present).
- Member of an OECD Advisory Group that provided feedback on the OECD Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to measure the results of implementing the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (Nov. 2018 – March 2021).
- Member of the selection jury for the Director Sectoral and Thematic Expertise of Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency (Nov. 2018).

#### **TEACHING**

- FALL 2020- PRESENT ‘Quantitative research methods’. University of Antwerp. Course coordinator. Grad students.
- SPRING 2020- PRESENT ‘Quantitative development evaluation’. University of Antwerp. Course coordinator. Grad students.
- FALL 2019- FALL 2022 ‘Development Economics’. University of Leuven. Guest lecturer. Undergrad students.
- FALL 2013- PRESENT ‘Topics in Development Studies’. University of Antwerp. Guest lecturer. Undergrad students.

#### **PHD SUPERVISION**

- Lara Collart. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2022-present.
- Elias Maombi Ndatabaye. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2021-present.
- Elie Lunanga. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2019-present.

## REVIEWER

World Development, Journal of Peace Research, GEOFORUM, Resources Policy, Security Dialogue, PLOS One, Vaccine, Economics & Human Biology, Review of Economics of the Household, International Journal of Conflict Management, Food Security, BMC International Health and Human Rights, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Annuaire des grands lacs, Conjonctures de l'Afrique Centrale

## SOFTWARE

Stata, GIS (ArcGIS, QGIS, QField), CAPI (ODK, Kobo, Surveybe), LaTeX

## REFERENCES

Marijke Verpoorten. Associate Professor. Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp. [marijke.verpoorten@uantwerp.be](mailto:marijke.verpoorten@uantwerp.be)

Peter van der Windt. Associate Professor. Program Head, Political Science, New York University – Abu Dhabi. [petervanderwindt@nyu.edu](mailto:petervanderwindt@nyu.edu)

Jean-Francois Maystadt. Associate Professor. Department of Economics, University of Louvain. [jean-francois.maystadt@uclouvain.be](mailto:jean-francois.maystadt@uclouvain.be)

Jo Swinnen. Full Professor. Department of Economics, University of Leuven; Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). [j.swinnen@cgiar.org](mailto:j.swinnen@cgiar.org)