

Nik Stoop

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 address policy relevant questions through empirical microeconomics. My research is deeply rooted in the themes of sustainable development, natural resources, and green technology, with a particular focus on low-income countries.

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

- [13] Leonid Peishakin, Nik Stoop, and Peter van der Windt. 2024. “Who Hosts? The Correlates of Hosting the Internally Displaced”. **American Political Science Review** – *Forthcoming*. [Working paper version](#)
- [12] Lara Collart, Elie Lunanga, Nik Stoop, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2024. “Presidents and vaccines. Head of state inoculation as a tool for vaccine promotion”. **Frontiers in Public Health** 12:1364927. [link](#)
- [11] Stoop, Nik, Kalle Hirvonen, and Jean-François Maystadt. 2021. “Institutional mistrust and child vaccination coverage in Africa”. **BMJ: Global Health** 6 (4): e004595. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [5] Stoop, Nik, Marijke Verpoorten, and Koen Deconinck. 2019. “Voodoo, Vaccines, and Bed Nets.” **Economic Development and Cultural Change** 67 (3): 493–535. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)

- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)

UNDER REVIEW

- [2] The Determinants of Assistance to Refugees? Ukrainian and Syrian Refugees in Poland. With V. Charnysh, L. Peisakhin and P. van der Windt. [EGAP Registry](#)
- [1] Forced Displacement: Understanding preferences for host communities. With S. Weber and P. van der Windt. [EGAP registry](#)

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. [AEA RCT Registry](#)
- [7] Whom to host? A meta-analysis of previous work and new evidence from the Congo. With S. Weber, P. van der Windt and H. Zhai. [EGAP registry](#)
- [6] Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out in Eastern Congo. With E. Lunanga, E. Maombi and M. Verpoorten. [EGAP registry](#)
- [5] Jobs and stability in North-Kivu, DR Congo: evidence from a policy experiment. With M. Verpoorten. [Policy Brief](#)
- [4] Who connects to the grid? Exploring electricity demand in North-Kivu, Eastern DRC. With E. Lunanga, S. Desbureaux and M. Verpoorten.
- [3] Displacement and Disenfranchisement: Conjoint Evidence from the DRC. With A.J. Harris and P. van der Windt.
- [2] Evacuation behavior in the absence of disaster preparedness. With E. Maombi, E. Lunanga, and M. Verpoorten.
- [1] You go, I stay: intrahousehold evacuation behavior and its determinants. With E. Maombi, E. Lunanga, and M. Verpoorten.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- [16] Here's what motivates people to host refugees. Empathy is what drives people to host the displaced, our study found. **Good Authority**, 2024. With L. Peisakhin and P. Van der Windt. [link](#)
- [15] Jobs and Violence: Evidence from a Policy Experiment in DR Congo. **IOB Policy Blog**, 2024. With M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [14] Are presidents good role models for vaccination uptake? DRC study shows only if they're trusted, and people get to know about it. **The Conversation**, 2024. With L. Collart, E. Lunanga and M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [13] "Van mijnen in Oost-Congo naar technologie in je smartphone." video for the **University of Antwerp's Children's University** – 2021. Science communication to children aged 8-12. With S. Geenen. [link](#)
- [12] Low trust in authorities affects vaccine uptake: evidence from 22 African countries. **The Conversation**, 2021. With J.F. Maystadt and K. Hirvonen. [link](#)
- [11] Conflict Minerals Legislation: Shooting at the Wrong Target ... Again. **Political Violence at a Glance**, 2021. With M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [10] Covid-19 vs. Ebola: High stakes for Eastern DRC. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With S. Desbureaux, A. Kaota, E. Lunanga and M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [9] Artisanal gold mining pays. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With S. Geenen and M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [8] The Super-Natural is Super-Rational. **IOB Blog**, 2020. With M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [7] Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? **IOB Policy Brief** 39, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt. [link](#)
- [6] The way that minerals are mined affects conflict in eastern Congo. **The Conversation**, 2019. With M. Verpoorten and P. van der Windt. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [3] Voodoo, vaccines and bed nets. Magico-religious beliefs affect health behavior in Benin. **IOB Policy Brief**, 2018, 29. With M. Verpoorten. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)

WORKING PAPERS (SELECTION)

- [3] Who Hosts? The Correlates of Hosting the Internally Displaced. **Households in Conflict Network**, Working Paper 412, 2024. With L. Peishakin and P. van der Windt. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)
- [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. [link](#)

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 2021-2024, 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*”. 2019-2024, 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, completed.
- [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 (* planned)

EAERE conference (2024)*; UA ECON seminar (2024); CEDON seminar (2024); GLAC seminar (2023); ECD seminar (2023); AIPRIL symposium (2022); Summer school Sustainable City (U. of Antwerp, 2022); Summer school on natural resources (U. of Bukavu, DRC, 2022); GLAC seminar (2022); Fruit For Thought seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2022); WGAPE (U. of Cape Town, 2019); IOB seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2019); EOS seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2019); Fruit for thought seminar (U. of Antwerp, 2018); SALDRU seminar (U. of Cape Town, 2018); International Mining Conference (U. of Ghent, 2017); UNU-WIDER Development Conference (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 (* planned)

- [13] **DR Congo***, September 2024. Follow-up survey for an RCT on eCookers.
- [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).
- Facilitated a one-day workshop on ‘Quantitative Impact Evaluation’ organized by the University of Antwerp & the Belgian Development Cooperation’s Special Evaluation Office (Sep. 2023).
- 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- 'Quantitative Research Methods'. University of Antwerp. Course coordinator.
PRESENT Advanced Master students.

SPRING 2020- 'Quantitative Development Evaluation'. University of Antwerp. Course coordinator.
PRESENT Advanced Master students.

FALL 2019- 'Development Economics'. University of Leuven. Guest lecturer. Undergrad students.
FALL 2022

FALL 2013- 'Topics in Development Studies'. University of Antwerp. Guest lecturer. Undergrad
PRESENT students.

PHD SUPERVISION

- Lara Collart. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2022-present.
- Elias Maombi Ndatbaye. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2021-present.
- Elie Lunanga. PhD in Economics, University of Antwerp. 2019-present. Defense planned for September 2024.

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

Peter van der Windt. Associate Professor. Program Head, Political Science, New York University – Abu Dhabi. petervanderwindt@nyu.edu

Jean-Francois Maystadt. Associate Professor. Department of Economics, University of Louvain. 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