

# STEFAN LEEFFERS

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## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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**Nova School of Business and Economics**, Ph.D. Candidate in Economics      Expected: May 2023  
Advisor: Pedro C. Vicente  
Department of Economics, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, Visiting Student  
CSAE, Department of Economics, University of Oxford, UK, Visiting Student  
DIME, World Bank, Washington D.C., US, Visiting Scholar

**Nova School of Business and Economics**, M.Sc. in Economics      2016

**INSPER, São Paulo**, M.Sc. in Economics      2016

**Tilburg University**, B.Sc. in Economics      2012  
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, Visiting Student

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Development Economics, Environmental Economics, and Behavioral Economics

## ACADEMIC WORK

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### JOB MARKET PAPER

“It Will Rain: The Effect of Information on Flood Preparedness in Urban Mozambique” [▶ abstract](#)

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Mobilizing Parents at Home and at School: An African Experiment on Primary Education” with Vincenzo di Maro, Danila Serra, and Pedro C. Vicente. [▶ abstract](#)

**Economic Development and Cultural Change**, Forthcoming.

“Does Electoral Observation Influence Electoral Results? Experimental Evidence for Domestic and International Observers in Mozambique” with Pedro C. Vicente. [▶ abstract](#)

**World Development**, Volume 114, pp. 42-58, February 2019.

### SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Collective Action Problems in Monitoring: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-field Experiment in Angola”  
with Vincenzo di Maro, Danila Serra, and Pedro C. Vicente - Draft available soon.

“The Effect of Participatory Governance on School Management in the Dominican Republic”  
with Vincenzo di Maro, Gastón Pierri, and Eric Teschke - Data analysis ongoing.

“Urbanisation Meets the Environment: How Can Urban Communities Manage Migration and Protect Against Climate Risks in Mozambican?”

with Jacob Macdonald, Stefano Tripodi, and Pedro C. Vicente - In preparation.

### RESEARCH GRANTS

2022      International Growth Center (£19,998) - PI  
2021      International Growth Center (£19,985) - PI  
2019      Nova SBE Leadership for Impact Knowledge Center (€1,000) - PI  
2019      Nova SBE Ph.D. Seed Grant (€2,000) - PI  
2018      Instituto Camões (€25,000) - Co-PI

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020-2022 Nova SBE, Merit-based tuition waivers  
2017 Amélia de Mello Foundation Award for the best Ph.D. student (curricular part)  
2016-2020 Portuguese National Science Foundation, Ph.D. Scholarship  
2013-2014 Nova SBE, Merit-based tuition waivers

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2022 Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev - Univ. of San Francisco), Advances with Field Experiments Conference (AFE - Univ. of Chicago), European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Conference (EAERE - Univ. of Bologna), NOVAFRICA conference (Nova SBE), Sustainability and Development Conference (SDC - Univ. of Michigan), Royal Dutch Association for Economists New Paper Sessions (Leiden Univ.), Ph.D. Workshop Queen Mary Univ. of London, Ph.D. Workshop Development Economics Network Berlin, Lisbon Micro Group (ISEG), mEETing Seminar Tilburg Univ., Seminar Nova SBE.  
2021 KDI School and World Bank DIME Conference.  
2019 North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC - Northwestern Univ.), NOVAFRICA conference (Nova SBE), SDC (Univ. of Michigan), Ph.D. Workshop Development Economics Network Berlin, CSAE Development Away Afternoon (Univ. of Oxford), Quantitative Economics Doctorate Jamboree (QED - Nova SBE), Working Group in African Political Economy Workshop (WGAPE - Berlin), Seminar - World Bank DIME.  
2017 NEUDC (Tufts Univ.), Ph.D. Workshop Univ. of Minho.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Refereeing American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Bulletin of Economic Research, African Studies Review, PLOS ONE, Economics Bulletin.  
Organizing 2022 NOVAFRICA Ph.D. Workshop on Experimental Development Economics  
2019 NOVAFRICA Ph.D. Workshop on Political Economy and Development

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019 Nova SBE, Game Theory (graduate), teaching assistant, spring semester  
Nova SBE, Behavioral Economics (graduate), teaching assistant, spring semester  
2018 Nova SBE, Linear Algebra (undergraduate), teaching assistant, fall semester

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### World Bank

Consultant - Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land 2019-present  
Consultant - Development Impact Evaluation (DIME), *Angola* 2016-2020

### NOVAFRICA

Research Assistant 2015  
Project Coordinator, *Mozambique* 2014

## MISCELLANEOUS

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Software Stata, QGIS, SNAP, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, MS Office, SurveyCTO, SurveySolutions, CSPro  
Languages Dutch (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (beginner)

## REFERENCES

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### **Pedro C. Vicente**

Nova School of Business and Economics  
NOVAFRICA, BREAD, CEPR  
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[pedro.vicente@novasbe.pt](mailto:pedro.vicente@novasbe.pt)

### **Danila Serra**

Texas A&M University  
Department of Economics  
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[dserra@tamu.edu](mailto:dserra@tamu.edu)

### **Alex Armand**

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NOVAFRICA, CEPR, IFC  
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### **Vincenzo di Maro**

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## ABSTRACTS

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### **It Will Rain: The Effect of Information on Flood Preparedness in Urban Mozambique** **JOB MARKET PAPER**

Floods are among the costliest and most recurring natural disasters. Many governments provide disaster preparedness information, but there is limited evidence of the efficacy of such policies. Using a large-scale randomized experiment with 3,000 households across 300 urban communities in Mozambique, I show that providing information on flood risk increased the implementation of suggested mitigation strategies, measured objectively (using a machine learning-based algorithm to detect solid waste, a major flood hazard, in over 25,000 photos) and through self-reported behaviors. I find evidence that increased risk awareness and positive spillovers on non-targeted households contribute to the treatment effects. I do not find differential effects by information medium or the number of targeted families within communities, which implies that even the cheapest mode of information delivery can have large effects. The findings show that information interventions can play an important role in disaster risk management, even when the risks are prevalent.

### **Mobilizing Parents at Home and at School: An African Experiment on Primary Education** **Economic Development and Cultural Change**

How should parents be mobilized for education in Africa? We implemented a large-scale field experiment in Angolan primary schools, including three treatments: an information campaign at home, simple parents' meetings at school, and a combination of both. Our measures of parental mobilization include beneficial practices at home, contact with teachers, and participation in school institutions. We find that the information increased parents' involvement at home but had no impact on engagement at school, while the meetings had the opposite effects. After mobilizing parents, only the combined treatment improved management practices and facilities in schools, teachers' attitudes, and parents' satisfaction.

### **Does Electoral Observation Influence Electoral Results? Experimental Evidence for Domestic and International Observers in Mozambique** **World Development**

Electoral fraud is a common problem in young democracies. Election observers constitute one possible remedy. We use data on the random assignment of observers during Mozambique's 2009 general elections to estimate the impact that observers have on electoral results. We can distinguish between domestic observers, deployed countrywide, who stayed at the same ballot table for the whole election day, and international observers, who circulated across several ballot locations assigned within selected districts. We show that the presence of domestic observers reduced voter turnout and increased the share of blank votes countrywide. This suggests a reduction in ballot fraud activities. For selected districts where international observers were active, findings are less clear, as we do not find fraud-reducing effects for any of the two types of observers. A possible interpretation is that local politicians anticipate the presence of international observers in convenient districts.