

# **H i C N** Households in Conflict Network

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## Call for Papers

### The Unit of Analysis and the Micro-Level Dynamics of Violent Conflict

Second HiCN Workshop, Antwerp (Belgium), January 19-20, 2007

In January 2007, the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) will organise its Second Annual Workshop. HiCN brings together scholars from different disciplines working on the analysis of conflict from a micro-perspective. HiCN aims to fill a gap in the literature on conflict research. The literature on the economics of conflict in the last ten years (1995-2005) has been dominated by macro-economic, cross-country analyses. This debate has yielded important insights into the causes and consequences of violent conflict around the world, such as the saliency of natural resources, agricultural exports, education, military spending, inequality, poverty, ethnicity and leadership. The debate has certainly not come to a close, but we feel that so much has already been achieved in this field.

We believe that there is another, completely open and under-researched area of inquiry in conflict research, namely the micro-level analysis of causes, functionings and consequences of violent conflict. In its Second Annual Workshop, HiCN will address key issues in this emerging and exciting field.

We invite qualitative as well as quantitative papers, formal as well as narrative papers, provided they offer an innovative approach or new insight in the micro-analysis analysis of conflict. We are interested to receive papers addressing one or more layers of the cycle of conflict, from causes to consequences and in topics such as migration, agriculture, coping mechanisms, peer pressure, gender, poverty, inequality, ethnicity, natural resources, violence, combatants and rebels.

“*The unit of analysis*” will be of central concern in this Second Annual Workshop. We are in particular interested in papers with a strong methodological focus addressing one or more of the following problems:

- What is the unit of analysis in micro-level work on violent conflict? The rebel group, the individual soldier, the household, intra-household mechanism, the firm, youth gangs, political parties?
- Which is the appropriate unit of analysis for which type of conflict? And why is this the case?
- How does decision making inside these units of analysis operate and how does that affect the course of a conflict?
- Is the definition of a household endogenously determined? Is household composition a function of environment, security, etc.? Does the definition need to change over time?

- What is the importance of using the appropriate unit of analysis in research on the causes and consequences of conflict?
- What data and methods are appropriate for such research and how can they be collected given the special challenges of conflict environments?

Stephan Klasen (Development Economics, University of Göttingen), Debby Bonnin (Industrial Organisation and Labour Studies, University of Natal) and Debarati Guha-Sapir (Refugee Studies and Epidemiology, Université Catholique de Louvain) have agreed to act as key-note speakers and discussants at the workshop.

A selection of the best papers will be submitted to a peer-reviewed international journal after the workshop for a potential special issue. The HiCN workshops are organised by Philip Verwimp (ISS, The Hague), Tilman Brück (DIW, Berlin) and Patricia Justino (IDS, UK) with support from The Leverhulme Trust, UK.

Papers (preferred) or extended abstracts should be sent to [second@hicn.org](mailto:second@hicn.org) before September 30, 2006. Decisions will be made by October 30, 2006. HiCN will pay partial ticket or hotel costs for PhD students or applicants from developing countries.