

ADAM LICHTENHELD

Wijnhaven, Turfmarkt 99, 2511 DP Den Haag, Netherlands
a.g.lichtenheld@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

Political scientist with expertise in migration and displacement, conflict, peacebuilding, and humanitarian and development programming. 15 years of experience leading studies; supervising cross-functional teams; teaching courses and trainings; translating data and evidence into actionable insights; and advising governments, donors, and practitioners on learning, program design, and evaluation in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, and Uganda. Experience in academia (Berkeley, Yale, Stanford, Leiden), government (USAID, FCDO, U.S. State Dept., U.S. Defense Dept.), NGOs (Mercy Corps, IRC, DRC, IDMC) and multilateral donors (World Bank, UN-HCR). Published an award-winning book and dozens of peer-reviewed articles, policy reports, white papers, blogs, and op-eds on migration, conflict prevention and resolution, social cohesion, violent extremism, governance, military intervention, and foreign aid. Delivered briefings to senior government officials, practitioners, academic experts, and media.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley Ph.D, M.A. in Political Science (International Relations, Comparative Politics)	Berkeley, California, USA 15/08/2019
University of Wisconsin-Madison B.A. in Political Science and International Studies	Madison, Wisconsin, USA 18/05/2008

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Leiden University <i>Assistant Professor of Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution & International Relations</i>	The Hague, Netherlands 06/11/2025 - present
Stanford University <i>Executive Director, Immigration Policy Lab</i>	Stanford, California, USA 18/07/2022 - 1/07/2025
Georgetown University <i>Affiliated Scholar, Institute for the Study of International Migration</i>	Washington, DC, USA 01/09/2018 - present
Yale University <i>Postdoctoral Associate, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies</i>	New Haven, Connecticut, USA 01/07/2019 - 30/06/2020

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Book Chapters

- Lichtenheld, A. “[Armed Conflict and Internal Displacement](#),” in Cantor, D., M. Bradley, W. Ekezie, U. Johann Pape, and N. Baal, eds. *Oxford Handbook on Internal Displacement* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2026).
- Lichtenheld, A. *[Guilt by Location: Forced Displacement and Population Sorting in Civil Wars](#)* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024). ****Winner, 2025 Conflict Research Society Book of the Year & 2026 International Studies Association Distinguished Book Award**
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Politics of Forced Migration Data.” *Oxford Explains Video Series* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, Forthcoming 2026).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Carnegie, A., Gracheva, A., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “Balancing Act: Terrorism and Regime Stability.” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 70, No. 3 (2026): sqago54.
- Matanock, A. and Lichtenheld, A. “How Does International Intervention Work? A Mechanism for Securing Peace Settlements in Civil Conflicts.” *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (2022): pp. 1810-30.
- Carnegie, A., Howe, K., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “Winning Hearts and Minds for Rebel Rulers: Foreign Aid and Military Contestation in Syria.” *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 52, No. 3 (2022): pp. 1333-1354.
- Lichtenheld, A. and Schon, J. “The Consequences of Internal Displacement on Conflict Dynamics: Evidence from Syria.” *Political Geography*, Vol. 86 (2021): pp. 1023-1046.
- Carnegie, A., Howe, K., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “The Effects of Foreign Aid on Rebel Governance: Evidence from a Large-Scale U.S. Aid Program.” *Economics & Politics*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (2021): pp. 41-66.
- Lichtenheld, A. “Explaining Population Displacement Strategies in Civil Wars: A Cross-National Analysis.” *International Organization*, Vol. 74, No. 2 (Spring 2020): pp. 253-294.
- Lichtenheld, A. “Beyond Ethno-Sectarian Cleansing: The Assortative Logic of Forced Displacement in Syria.” *Refugee and Migration Movements in the Middle East*. Ed. Marc Lynch. Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Series No. 25 (March 2017): pp. 42-48.
- Lichtenheld, A. “Forced Displacement and Identity Politics in the Middle East.” *Nations and Nationalism*. Ed. Marc Lynch. POMEPS Series No. 14 (June 2015): pp. 22-25.

Works in Progress

- Lichtenheld, A. “The Stayer Penalty: Wartime Migration and Social Acceptance in Post-Islamic State Iraq” [revise and resubmit].
- MacDonald, M., and Lichtenheld, A. “Support for Refugee Integration in a Major Refugee-Hosting Country: Evidence from Kenya” [under review]
- Lichtenheld, A. and Steele, A. “State Responses to Internal Displacement (SPID): A New Dataset” [under review]
- Lichtenheld, A., Schwartz, S., and Steele, A. “Government Responses to Internal and International Displacement (GRIID): A Conceptual Framework”
- Weber, S., MacDonald, M., Lichtenheld, A., Adong, A., Clingain, C., Hainmueller, J., Musiime, D., Weber, S., Wendo, A., and Zeitlin, A. “Building Business Networks to Strengthen Refugee Economic and Social Integration.”
- Koren, O., Valentino, B., Agbenyi, A., Lichtenheld, A., and Lance, K. “Pre-emptive Peace? An Impact Assessment of an Early Warning Intervention in Nigeria.”

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluations

- Lichtenheld, A. and Steele, A. “Three Decades of Policies on Internal Displacement: Patterns, Progress, and an Uncertain Future.” *Researching Internal Displacement*, March 2026.
- Lichtenheld, A., Gang, T., Bezares Calderón, A., and Olawole, I. *Mediating Resilience: Inclusive and Climate-Informed Pathways to Peace* Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2026).
- Olawole, I., Ribar, M., Sheely, R., Lance, K., Lichtenheld, A., and Karfo, S. *Equipped for Peace: Conflict Resolution Training and Youth Violence Prevention in Niger* Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2026).

- MacDonald, M., Lichtenheld, A., Asrat, T. “Kenya embraces refugee integration – and citizens are on board.” *The New Humanitarian*, April 2025.
- Steele, A., Schwartz, S., and Lichtenheld, A. “The Politics of Forced Displacement and How States Respond.” *Researching Internal Displacement*, April 2024.
- Lichtenheld, A., Lupieri, S., and Chaudhuri, N. “Resistant to Reform? Improving U.S. Immigration Policy Through Data, Evidence, and Innovation.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2024).
- Micinski, N., Lichtenheld, A., and Norman, K. “Israel’s mass displacement of Gazans fits strategy of using migration as a tool of war.” *The Conversation* (2023).
- Lichtenheld, A. *Mobilizing Communities to Build Social Cohesion and Reduce Vulnerability to Violent Extremism: Evidence from a Peacebuilding Program in Niger*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2022).
- Lichtenheld, A. and Sheely, R. “Overcoming Misperceptions about Violent Extremism.” Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2022).
- Lichtenheld, A. *Towards Durable Solutions to Displacement: Understanding Social Acceptance of Returnees in Post-ISIS Iraq*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A. *‘Fear of the Unknown’: Religion, Identity, and Conflict in Northern Nigeria*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A., and Alam, M. “To Ease Iraq’s Displacement Crisis, Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding are Vital.” *Just Security* (2021).
- Kelly, L., Nogueira-Budny, D., Anuj, H., Butscher, J., Dani, A., Lichtenheld, A., Dodds, E., Freymeyer, C., Rebosio, M., van der Werf, M., and Zheng, J. “World Bank Engagement in Situations of Conflict: An Evaluation of FY10–20 Experience.” Independent Evaluation Group. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank (2021)
- Alam, M., Lichtenheld, A., and Sheely, R. “The Pandemic Has Reshaped Conflicts Around the World. Here’s What Got Worse.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2021)
- Aron, G., Herrera Kelly, D., Lichtenheld, A., and Sheely, R. *A Clash of Contagions: The Impact of COVID-19 on Conflict in Nigeria, Colombia, and Afghanistan*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A., Olawole, I., and Sheely, R. “Prioritizing Research and Learning within the Global Fragility Strategy.” Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A. “Strategic Displacement and the Politics of Wartime Mobility: Implications for Policymakers and Practitioners.” UNHCR working paper, contribution to UNHCR’s *State of the World’s Forcibly Displaced 2021* (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. *What Makes Refugees and Migrants Vulnerable to Detention in Libya? A Microlevel Study of the Determinants of Detention*, Mixed Migration Centre of North Africa (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. “Guilt by Location.” *Foreign Policy* (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. “You Can’t Go Home Again: Pressures and Prospects of Refugee Return to Syria.” Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University (2019).
- Lichtenheld, A. “How to Really Help the World’s New Refugees.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2015).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Identity Politics of Displacement in the Middle East.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2015).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Problem with ‘Safe Zones’ in the Middle East.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Aid Diversion Dilemma.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).

SELECT GRANTS AND AWARDS

ISA Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration section <i>Distinguished Book Award (for "Guilt by Location")</i>	2026
Conflict Research Society <i>Book of the Year (for "Guilt by Location")</i>	2025
Stanford Impact Labs, Stanford University <i>Stage 3 Grant for Immigration Policy Lab</i>	2024 - 2029 \$2,500,000
Innovations for Poverty Action <i>Displaced Livelihoods Initiative Research Grant</i>	2024 - 2025 \$60,000
King Center for Global Development, Stanford University <i>Global Development Research Grant</i>	2023 - 2024 \$100,000
International Political Economy Society <i>David A. Lake Best Paper Award</i>	2019
National Science Foundation <i>Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant</i>	2018 - 2019 \$20,569
Truman National Security Network <i>National Security Fellowship</i>	2019
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation <i>Dissertation Fellowship</i>	2018 - 2019 \$20,000
Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley School of Law <i>Human Rights Fellowship</i>	2016 - 2017 \$5,000
U.S. Institute of Peace <i>Jennings Randolph Peace Fellowship</i>	2015 - 2016 \$20,000
University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation <i>Herb York Global Security Fellowship</i>	2015 - 2016 \$18,000

TEACHING

Advanced Peace Studies <i>Instructor, Institute of Governance and Security Affairs</i>	2026 <i>The Hague, NL</i>
Thesis Lab <i>Instructor, Institute of Governance and Security Affairs</i>	2025 - 2026 <i>The Hague, NL</i>
Qualitative Research Methods <i>Instructor, Institute of Governance and Security Affairs</i>	2025 - 2026 <i>The Hague, NL</i>
Security and Irregular Migration <i>Instructor, Institute for Security Governance, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School</i>	2022 - 2023 <i>Monterrey, CA</i>
The Politics of Forced Migration and Population Displacement <i>Lecturer, Yale University</i>	2019 <i>New Haven, CT</i>

Introduction to Comparative Politics	2015
<i>Graduate Student Instructor (with M. Steven Fish), University of California, Berkeley</i>	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Ethics and Justice in International Affairs	2014
<i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Amy Gurowitz), University of California, Berkeley</i>	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>
WAR!	2014
<i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Ron Hassner), University of California, Berkeley</i>	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Introduction to International Relations	2013
<i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Amy Gurowitz), University of California, Berkeley</i>	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mercy Corps	Washington, DC, USA
<i>Senior Researcher</i>	2020 - 2022
Planned, coordinated, and implemented research studies and program evaluations related to democracy and governance, conflict, and violence prevention in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Uganda.	
UNHCR	New York, NY, USA
<i>Consultant</i>	2020
Wrote a research paper on weaponized displacement and its implications for policymakers.	
The World Bank	Washington, DC, USA
<i>Senior Conflict Analyst</i>	2020
Provided subject matter and analytical expertise for an evaluation of World Bank engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states, including technical guidance and consultation on conflict prevention and stabilization.	
Mixed Migration Centre	Tunis, Tunisia
<i>Research Analyst</i>	2019
Conducted an analysis of the determinants of refugee and migrant detention in Libya using quantitative survey data from 5,000 refugees and migrants gathered over a two-year period.	
U.S. State Department, USAID	Istanbul, Turkey
<i>Monitoring & Evaluation Trainer</i>	2016 - 2017
Led training of program staff on research design, measurement, data collection techniques, remote research management, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data.	
Dexis Consulting Group (USAID)	Istanbul, Turkey
<i>Senior Research Analyst, USAID</i>	2016 - 2017
Monitored and analyzed political, military, and social dynamics in Aleppo, Idlib, and Homs, and conducted oral and written briefings for USAID/OTI, the U.S. State Department, and other donors.	

SKILLS

Languages	English (native), Arabic (conversational)
Fieldwork	Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Syria, Turkey, Uganda
Software	Stata, R, Python, Dedoose, Adobe, Microsoft Office, Qualtrics, SurveyCTO
Methods	RCTs, quasi-experimental methods (matching, RDD, etc.), statistical analysis, qualitative research (interviews, focus groups, ethnography), context assessments, conflict analysis, case studies