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He was the first holder of the rotating Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity in 2003. He was a Research Fellow at UNU/WIDER in Helsinki where he ran Projects on Globalization and Vulnerable Economies and Why Some Countries Avoid Conflict, While Others Fail. He also ran a project on The Two Economies of Ireland, financed by the International Fund for Ireland at the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre (NIERC), Belfast.

He is the author of seven books and over 140 refereed journal papers and book chapters. His latest monograph, published in 2010, is Explaining Civil War (Edward Elgar). He is on the Editorial boards of Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy (PEPS), as well as Civil Wars. He is also the coordinator of the Dutch Scientific Research Council (NWO) CoCoon research project on the effect of on the environment and conflict in Bolivia and Ecuador (NEBE).

His research interests are in the economics of conflict, resource abundance, aid conditionality, political economy, macroeconomics and international economics.

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