

## LEAH POOLE-SELTERS

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### EDUCATION

**FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF NUTRITION SCIENCE AND POLICY | Tufts University, Boston, MA**

**Doctor of Philosophy**, Agriculture, Food, and Environment, Concentration in Climate Extremes & Disaster Resilience, May 2026

- **Chapter 1:** Navigating Dry Spells: A Scoping Review of Drought-Adaptation Strategies Across the Southern African Development Community
- **Chapter 2:** Framing Drought: Media Representations of Drought Adaptation in Namibia
- **Chapter 3:** Local Strategies, Perceptions, and Impacts of Drought Response in Namibian Communities

**Master of Science**, Agriculture, Food, and Environment, Concentration in Sustainable Food Systems, May 2022

**TUFTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Tufts University, Boston, MA, Master of Public Health**, May 2022

**MEREDITH COLLEGE, Raleigh, NC, Bachelor of Science, Food and Nutrition**, May 2020

### EXPERIENCE

**TUFTS UNIVERSITY, Boston, MA**

2022-Present

*Researcher for various grant funded projects, grants listed below*

**Feinstein International Center Researcher**

- Academic Alliance on Anticipatory Action: a consortium of universities building the evidence base on anticipatory action
  - Led an evaluation in Mali for an innovative early action funding mechanism for a drought disaster
  - Collaborated with stakeholders such as Bezos Earth Fund to compile the most current evidence on anticipatory action
- Anticipatory Insurance: a cost benefit analysis for forecast-based drought insurance in Malawi and Zambia
  - Led a team of 4 from project conception to completion on this mixed-methods research study
  - Final deliverable influenced the creation and piloting of anticipatory insurance in Malawi and Zambia
- Futureproofing Health: developing a center for resilient health in disasters
  - Developing an international and interdisciplinary cohort of PhD students focused on the intersection of climate and health from 7 countries
  - Assessing measures taken by the government and communities to address drought in southern Africa as represented by major national newspapers, government records, and human perception
- Anticipatory Action for Health in a Changing Climate
  - Compiling a global landscape report on anticipatory action for public health in the context of climate change
  - Evaluating a sovereign insurance payout in 4 countries to determine how policies and SOPs affect timely payouts
- How Americans Cope
  - Conduct key informant interviews and a media-based content analysis on the coping strategies employed by survivors of Hurricane Helene in Asheville, NC
  - This research was springboard funding based on a rapid research report written in immediate response to the hurricane – it led to additional funding focused on the needs of immigrant and refugee populations

**STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE, Boston, MA**

2024

*Development project in collaboration with the Rwanda Water Research Board*

**Water Program Intern**

- Assisting with an ongoing cost-benefit analysis for implementing a payment for ecosystem services program in Kigali
- Research is primarily conducted with economic and qualitative research methods

**RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE, The Netherlands**

2022-2024

*Researching the links between climate change and public health, sampling of projects below*

**Health Team Consultant**

- Conducted key informant interviews to study climate sensitive infectious diseases in east Africa
- Reviewed literature and compiled databases to make a case for utilizing air quality as an indicator for forecast-based action
- Tracked and mapped various health concerns connected to climate change from cardiovascular disease to forced migration

**CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION, San Francisco, CA**

2021

*Climate change mitigation organization*

**Food and Agriculture focused Climate Change Consultant**

- Gave recommendations for emerging mitigation opportunities, such as fortification of alternative proteins, at the intersection of food and climate change supported by independent research and key informant interviews
- Repurposed existing government policies to further the mission of mitigating climate change through diet

### LEADERSHIP AND AWARDS

**Engagement Officer**, American Society for Nutrition

*CHAIN Leadership Team (2023-present)*

**Friedman Food Policy Action Council**, Tufts University

*Communication Officer (2021-2022)*

**Outstanding Applied Learning Experience Award**, Tufts University, 2022

*Demonstrated commitment to service while addressing a significant public health issue*

**Tim Edgar PhD Award**, Tufts University, 2022

*Demonstrated commitment to health communication through academic achievements*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Teaching Assistant:** Climate Change: Risk and Adaptation in Food Systems: 2021, 2023, 2024 | Policy Focused Doctoral Seminar: 2024

### SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Developer and Member of the CORD Global PhD Cohort | 2024 AMS Summer Science Policy Colloquium Cohort Member

Member of the Climate C.A.F.E | Member of the Planetary Health Alliance | Member of the AA-MEAL Working Group

Proficient in STATA, R Studio, NVivo, Dedoose, and Kobo Toolbox