

LEAH POOLE-SELTTERS

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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