

Rebecca L. (Nemec) Boehm

Doctoral Candidate

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Agriculture, Food, and Environment program, Nutrition Science, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, expected August 2016
- M.S. Agriculture, Food, and Environment program, Nutrition Science with Economics specialization, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, May 2012
- B.A. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, May 2005; minor in Spanish Languages and Cultures

DISSERTATION

Title: Climate change and the U.S. food consumer: economic input-output life cycle modeling, the U.S. consumer food-related carbon footprint, and responses to climate-induced impacts on food quality and consumer valuation of climate, environmental, and nutritional food product attributes.

Committee: Drs. Sean B. Cash (Chair), Parke Wilde, Shelly Ver Ploeg

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Food and agricultural economics, nutrition and agriculture policy, nutrition, climate change and environmental impacts on food systems, applied statistics and econometrics, economic valuation and choice modeling, behavioral economics, econometrics and statistics, economic input-output life cycle modeling

PUBLICATIONS

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Dresser, L. “Food System Economics” in *Introduction to the U.S. Food System: Public Health, Environment, and Equity*, edited by Roni Neff, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Baltimore, MD, July 2014.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Anderson, B.A., Ahmed, S., Griffin, T.S., Robbat, Jr., A., Stepp, J.R.; Han, W., Hazel, M., Orians, C.M. “Association between empirically estimated monsoon dynamics and other weather factors to historical tea yields in China: Results from a yield response model”, *submitted to Climate special issue on climate change, food crops and diets*.

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Kfoury, N., Kowalsick, A., Robbat, Jr. A., Ahmed, S., Stepp, J.R., Griffin, T.S., Orians, C.M. “Climate change and consumer food choices: examining consumer sensitivity to climate-induced quality changes in tea products and willingness to pay for climate change mitigation, seasonality, sustainability and nutritional attributes”, *in preparation*.

Cash, S.B., Boehm, R., Schuknecht, T. “Overcoming constraints on good intentions: quality improvements in parent donations to a school snack program”, *in preparation*.

TEACHING

Stata Workshop Series, Friedman School Blended Master’s Degree Program, Spring 2016

Stata Workshop Series, Friedman School Blended Master’s Degree Program, Fall 2015

Sustainability and the Food Consumer: Reducing Environmental Impacts Through Consumer Choice, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy online sustainability certificate program, Summer 2015

Stata Workshop Series, Friedman School Blended Master’s Degree Program, Fall 2014

Stata Workshop Series, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Fall 2013

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Economics of Agriculture and the Environment, Friedman School, Spring 2014 - 2016

Statistical Methods for Nutrition Research, Friedman School, Fall 2013 - 2015

Economics of Food Policy Analysis, Friedman School, Spring 2012 - 2013

Economic Determinants of U.S. Food Policy, Friedman School, Fall 2012

Fundamentals of Nutrition Policy and Programming, Friedman School, Fall 2011

PRESENTATIONS

Boehm, R. Cash, S.B., Ver Ploeg, M., Wilde, P.E., Costello, C. “Is it hot in here or is it your food choices? Examining the carbon footprint of U.S. household food spending, travel to acquire food and linkages to nutrition and aggregate economic activity” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, July 2016 (*pending acceptance*)

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Kowalsick, A., Kfoury, N., Griffin, T.S., Robbat, Jr. A., Stepp, J.R., Ahmed, S., Orians, C.M. “Climate change and consumer food and beverage choices: Examining consumer perceptions to climate-induced quality changes in tea products and willingness to pay for climate mitigation, sustainability and nutritional attributes” Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, July 2016

Boehm, R. and Cash S.B. “Climate change and consumer food choices: examining consumer sensitivity to climate-induced quality changes in tea products and willingness to pay for climate change mitigation and other sustainability and

nutritional attributes”, Tufts Collaborates Symposium, Medford, MA, September 2015

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Kfoury, N., Kowalsick, A., Robbat, Jr. A., Ahmed, S., Stepp, J.R., Griffin, T.S., Orians, C.M. “Climate change and consumer food choices: examining consumer sensitivity to climate-induced quality changes in tea products and willingness to pay for climate change mitigation and other sustainability and nutritional attributes”, American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting Friedman Fellowship Symposium, June 2015

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Anderson, B., Ahmed, S., Griffin T.S., Orians, C.M., Robbat, Jr., A., Stepp, R. “Climate Change, Monsoon Dynamics, and Tea Production in China,” presenting author at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, July 2014

Cash, S.B., Nemeč-Boehm, R. “Credence by the Cup: Ethical Concerns and the Coffee Consumer,” presented by Sean B. Cash at the Specialty Coffee Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, April 2014

Cash, S.B., Nemeč-Boehm, R. “Overcoming constraints on good intentions: quality improvements in parent donations to a school snack program”, presenting author at Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, Ithaca, NY, June 2013

Boehm, R., Cash, S.B., Anderson, B., Ahmed, S., Griffin T.S., Orians, C.M., Robbat, Jr., A., Stepp, J.R. “Quantifying the economic impact of climate change on tea production from 1984 to 2011 across China’s major tea producing provinces,” presenting author at Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, Ithaca, NY, June 2011

Nemeč, R., Cash, S.B., Anderson, B., Ahmed, S., Griffin T.S., Orians, C.M., Robbat, Jr., A., Stepp, J.R. “Quantifying the economic impact of climate change on tea production from 1984 to 2011 across China’s major tea producing provinces,” presenting author at Student Research Conference, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, March 2013

Nemeč, R. “Planting Restrictions: An afterthought for most commodity producers”, Student Research Conference, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, MA March 2012

Nemeč, R. “Farm to School: Reinventing the School Lunch line in the Boston Public Schools,” American Public Health Association Annual meeting, Washington, DC, November 2007

Nemeč, R. “Ecological Implications of Human Development on Alaska’s North Slope Coastal Plain,” Princeton University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Princeton, NJ, March 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Administrative Coordinator/Doctoral Fellow

Tufts Tea Collaborative, Tufts University

Supervisors: Sean Cash and Colin Orians, June 2012 – Present

- Developed study design and data collection protocols to assess consumer willingness to pay for tea product attributes related to nutrition and the environment using a hedonic sensory evaluation and real choice experiment
- Designed and executed choice experiment procedure in Qualtrics online survey software
- Managed study logistics and supervised four graduate and undergraduate research assistants to collect data for above study in partnership with Boston area retailers.
- Cleaned, processed, and analyzed data collected from above study and prepared graphs, tables, and charts of results.
- Currently preparing manuscript of results for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal
- Assist PI in coordinating research groups in the U.S. and China
- File annual reports to National Science Foundation
- Maintain, organize, and archive all research documents and data
- Developed website for research collaborative (www.teaclimate.org)

Agriculture, Food, and Environment Program Research Intern

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University

Supervisors: Timothy S. Griffin and Christian Peters, May 2012 – December 2012

- Completed literature review on economic methods to assess the impact of climate change on agricultural production
- Managed two research interns who assisted in the collection of data on tea production in China
- Collaborated with a Climate Scientist at Boston University to collect and analyze weather data for China's tea growing regions between 1980 and 2013
- Developed a novel methodology for assessing the onset and retreat of the East Asian Monsoon using daily precipitation data
- Assembled climate and tea production data in a yield response model to assess the association between weather factors and tea yields.
- Prepared and submitted manuscript on above analysis to peer-reviewed academic journals
- Assessed rangeland productivity in the U.S. using USDA National Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) National Soil Survey spatial data as part of a larger project assessing the capacity of U.S. lands to meet food needs for the coming century.

Policy Intern

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Washington, DC

Supervisor: Ferd Hoefner, May 2011 – September 2011

- Analyzed data from USDA NRCS and created charts, tables, and graphs for the “Farmers Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program”, available online, [here](#)
- Researched and wrote meat product food safety section of the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013
- Coordinated legislative visits to Congress and U.S. Department of Agriculture with staff and organizational constituents
- Designed and edited “Weekly Roundup” newsletter

Graphic Design Associate

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Boston, MA

Supervisor: Jennifer Hashley, September 2010 – January 2013

- Redesigned existing organizational documents/website features
- Designed new documents including brochures, flyers, and plain language guides
- Developed design schema for Specialty License Plate campaign to support Massachusetts agriculture

Interim Director

Boston Collaborative for Food & Fitness, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA

Supervisor: Anne McHugh, February 2010 – August 2010

- Completed semi-annual reports to the Kellogg Foundation
- Created sub-contracts for community partner organizations in Boston
- Coordinated communications among partner organizations, subcontractors, and funding agencies
- Created new organizational website and bi-monthly electronic newsletter
- Attended Kellogg Foundation Annual meeting as organizational representative

Operations Manager

Canto 6 Bakery, Jamaica Plain, MA

Supervisor: Alexandra Emmott, March 2008 – February 2010

- Managed customer service, food and supply orders, employee scheduling, payroll, bank deposits, accounts payable, and quarterly staff meetings
- Created new monthly baking class series highlighting local/seasonal ingredients
- Designed new local food purchasing plan and food composting program

High Meadows Fellow

The Food Project (TFP), Roxbury, MA

Supervisor: Anim Steel and Sharon Reilly, June 2005 – June 2008

- Authored Farm to School Feasibility Study for the Boston Public Schools to help launch a new Farm to School program in the district
- Authored white paper on Boston food policy landscape to launch organizational food policy strategy
- Worked with Director of Community Relations to build relationships with key Boston stakeholders including city and state officials in order to advance organizational policy objectives
- Created new internship program for high school youth to learn about policy-advocacy and school food issues

Summer Research Intern

USDA Agricultural Research Service, Parlier, CA

Supervisors: James Ayers and Rick Schoneman, June 2004 and August 2004

- Collected soil/water samples from alfalfa fields in the Eastern San Joaquin Valley to determine effect of various forms of irrigation on soil/water selenium levels
- Analyzed data collected and created summary reports for Project Manager

Research Intern

Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service, Barrow, AK

Supervisors: Nora Rojek, July 2004

- Planned and implemented senior thesis project to assess the effect of a landfill on gull populations feeding patterns in the Barrow region
- Captured gulls and other birds and attached radio transmitters to their bodies

- Conducted field surveys of land-nesting birds using GPS units around Barrow

AWARDS

National Science Foundation Fellowship, Tufts University, September 2015 – September 2016, (\$25,000)

Tufts Institute of the Environment Fellowship, Tufts University, May 2015 – May 2016, (\$2,050)

Full tuition scholarship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professional Education Short Course entitled “Discrete Choice Modeling: Predicting Demand and Market Shares”, May 2014 (\$4,300)

Friedman Family Fellowship to support PhD research and tuition, September 2012 – May 2015 (\$25,000 per year for three years)

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Travel Scholarship to present at the AAEA Annual Meeting, July 2014 (\$400)

Friedman School Travel Scholarship to present at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, July 2014 (\$300)

Scholarship from the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) to present at the NAREA Annual Meeting, June 2013 (\$300)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)

SKILLS

Computer: Stata (advanced), Qualtrics (advanced), ArcGIS (intermediate), R (intermediate), Adobe Creative Suite (intermediate), Microsoft Office suite (advanced)

Languages: English (native fluency), Spanish (proficient)

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friedman Justice League, Founder and member, November 2010 – present

Member at Large of Activities, Graduate Student Section Officers, AAEA, May 2014 – May 2015

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Tufts Expert Sensory Panel, September 2012 – present

Semester Abroad, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, Panama, January 2004 – May 2004