

# Rachel D. Gilbert

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<https://sites.tufts.edu/rachelgilbert/>

## EDUCATION

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2020-Present	PhD Candidate, Food and Nutrition Policy and Programs Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Boston, MA
2017	MS, Agriculture, Food and Environment Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Boston, MA Water: Systems, Science and Society Certificate, Tufts Institute for the Environment
2012	BA, Environmental Studies Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA Honors: John Dickinson Scholar; <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> ; Phi Beta Kappa

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research focuses on the intersection of agriculture, food, and nutrition, using economic analysis to understand food choice and improve access to healthy diets around the world. I am interested in how food prices and other costs, such as meal preparation and trade costs, influence the cost and affordability of safe, nutritious diets. My research interests also include consumer willingness to pay for food attributes, such as safety and convenience.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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10/2020-Present	<b>Researcher, Food Prices for Nutrition</b> , Tufts University, Boston, MA Support country engagement and technical assistance in nine focus countries in South Asia and Africa for the Food Prices for Nutrition project, in partnership with IFPRI and the World Bank; develop software tools and workshops for national governments to monitor diet costs; contribute to collaborative and individual research projects related to the cost and affordability of healthy diets globally.
03/2023-Present	<b>Consultant</b> , Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Assessing affordability of target foods
01/2022-08/2022	<b>Consultant</b> , Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Analysis of trade policy and the cost of healthy diets globally
10/2018-10/2020	<b>Research Analyst</b> , International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow, Development Strategy and Governance Division
09/2017-09/2018	<b>Research Assistant</b> , IFPRI, Lilongwe, Malawi Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellow, Development Strategy and Governance Division

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Tufts University, Boston, MA

Spring 2022	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
Spring 2023	Professor Dan Maxwell and Professor Merry Fitzpatrick, Famine, Livelihoods, and Resilience
09/2021-Present	<b>Stata Workshop Instructor</b> , The Fletcher School Ginn Library

09/2016- **Teaching Assistant**, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy  
05/2017 Professor William Masters, Economics for Food and Nutrition Policy

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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09/2015- **Research Assistant**, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University  
08/2017 Assisted with literature reviews and secondary data analysis on India and southern Africa for [Feeding Tomorrow](#), a book for popular audiences on agricultural trade and development policy to support smallholder farmers

05/2015- **Research Assistant**, Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, Boston, MA  
02/2016 Worked in the Dietary Assessment Unit to collect and process multiple-pass 24-hour recalls

11/2013- **Research Assistant**, Small Planet Institute, Cambridge, MA  
05/2015 Assisted authors with fact-checking, copy editing, mapping origins of sources, and compiling and summarizing materials for the book [World Hunger: 10 Myths](#); research on topics such as climate change, agroecological practices, population growth, foreign aid, free trade, and democratic movements

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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**Gilbert, Rachel**, Leah Costlow, Julia Matteson, Jakob Rauschendorfer, Ekaterina Krivonos, Steven A. Block, and William A. Masters. "Trade Policy Reform, Retail Food Prices and Access to Healthy Diets Worldwide." *World Development* 177 (May 1, 2024): 106535. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106535>.

Mekonnen, Daniel A., Olutayo Adeyemi, **Rachel Gilbert**, Dare Akerele, Thom Achterbosch, and Anna Herforth. "Affordability of Healthy Diets Is Associated with Increased Food Systems Performance in Nigeria: State-Level Analysis." *Agricultural and Food Economics* 11, no. 1 (July 3, 2023): 21. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40100-023-00263-w>.

Schmidt, Emily, Paul Dorosh, and **Rachel Gilbert**. "Impacts of COVID-19 Induced Income and Rice Price Shocks on Household Welfare in Papua New Guinea: Household Model Estimates." *Agricultural Economics* 52, no. 3 (2021): 391–406. <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12625>.

Schmidt, Emily, **Rachel Gilbert**, Brian Holtemeyer, and Kristi Mahrt. "Poverty Analysis in the Lowlands of Papua New Guinea Underscores Climate Vulnerability and Need for Income Flexibility." *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 65, no. 1 (2021): 171–91. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12404>.

Mekonnen, Daniel A., Olutayo Adeyemi, **Rachel Gilbert**, Dare Akerele, Thom Achterbosch, and Anna Herforth. "Affordability of Healthy Diets Is Associated with Increased Food Systems Performance in Nigeria: State-Level Analysis." *Agricultural and Food Economics* 11, no. 1 (2023): 21. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40100-023-00263-w>.

## DISCUSSION PAPERS AND REPORTS

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Aberman, Noora-Lisa, Kufoalor, Doreen S, and **Gilbert, Rachel**. "Mapping the Implementation Process for Subsidized Fertilizer Distribution under Ghana's Planting for Food and Jobs Program." GSSP Working Paper. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2021.  
<https://ebrary.ifpri.org/digital/collection/p15738coll2/id/134432>

- Duchoslav, Jan; Kenamu, Edwin; **Gilbert, Rachel**; Baulch, Bob; Palloni, Giordano; and Gilligan, Daniel O. 2020. Building resilience and adaptation to climate change in Malawi: Quantitative baseline report. MaSSP Report May 2020. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133763>
- Davis, Kristin E., Gammelgaard, Johanna, Preissing, John, **Gilbert, Rachel** and Ngwenya, Hlamalani. 2021. *Investing in farmers: Agriculture human capital investment strategies*. FAO, Rome. 2021. Rome, FAO and IFPRI. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7134en>
- Gilbert, Rachel**; Benson, Todd; and Ecker, Olivier. 2019. Are Malawian Diets Changing? An assessment of nutrient consumption and dietary patterns using household-level evidence from 2010/11 and 2016/17. MaSSP Working Paper 30. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133522>
- Schmidt, Emily; **Gilbert, Rachel**; Holtemeyer, Brian; and Mahrt, Kristi. 2019. Poverty prevalence and correlates of household expenditure in four lowland areas of rural Papua New Guinea. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1863. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133400>
- Gilbert, Rachel**; Subedi, Binita; Wallingford, Jessica; Wilson, Norbert; and Masters, William A. 2019. Nutrient and mycotoxin content of commercially-sold premixed infant cereals in Malawi. MaSSP Working Paper 28. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133335>
- Schmidt, Emily; **Gilbert, Rachel**; Holtemeyer, Brian; Rosenbach, Gracie; and Benson, Todd. 2019. Papua New Guinea survey report: Rural household survey on food systems. IFPRI Discussion Paper 1801. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.133067>

## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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| 09/2023 | Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week, Lilongwe, Malawi<br><i>Learning Lab: Cost and Affordability of Healthy Diets</i>   |
| 05/2023 | International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS) IX, Washington, DC<br><a href="#"><i>Linking International Trade and Import Barriers to the Retail Cost of Healthy Diets Worldwide</i></a>  |
| 08/2022 | AAEA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, California<br>Accepted Poster Presentation<br><i>Meal preparation costs and diet quality in Malawi</i>   |
| 06/2019 | Linkages of Agriculture, Nutrition and Economic Development, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea<br>Presentation<br><i>Child growth and development in rural Papua New Guinea, available online at <a href="http://bit.ly/png_childgrowth">http://bit.ly/png_childgrowth</a></i>  |
| 06/2019 | Gilbert, Rachel, Binita Subedi, Jessica Wallingford, Norbert Wilson, and William Masters. "Nutrient Composition and Mycotoxin Contamination of Commercially Sold Premixed Cereals for Complementary Feeding of Infants in Malawi: Test Results for 94 Samples of 8 Brands (P11-079-19)." <i>Current Developments in Nutrition</i> 3, no. Supplement_1 (June 1, 2019).<br><a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzz048.P11-079-19">https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzz048.P11-079-19</a> . |
| 02/2019 | IFPRI Malawi Brown Bag seminar, Lilongwe, Malawi   |

*Market demand for and nutrient and mycotoxin levels in commercially-sold premixed cereals for complementary feeding of infants in Malawi*, available online at [http://bit.ly/marketdemand\\_mv](http://bit.ly/marketdemand_mv)

07/2018      Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week, Accra, Ghana  
Poster presentation and one-minute speed talk  
*A promising pathway? Assessing the relationship between aquaculture, fish consumption and types of fish consumed by households in rural Bangladesh*

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

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Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy (ANH Academy) and Research Community on Food Access  
American Society for Nutrition (ASN)

Ad hoc reviewer for the following journals: *Food Security*, *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health*

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

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**Software skills:** Microsoft Excel, Stata, LaTeX, NVivo, Open Data Kit and Kobo Toolbox, SurveyCTO, WordPress  
**Languages:** English (native), Spanish (advanced), French (novice)

## **SERVICE**

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2023-24	Friedman School Admissions Committee
2023-24	Friedman School Curriculum & Degrees Sub-committee on Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion
2022	Friedman School Curriculum Review, Quantitative Methods and Skills Working Group
2017-2019	International Food Policy Research Institute Sustainability Task Force