

# Leah Pierson

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## Education

**Brown University**, B.A. in Human Rights, with honors **Spring 2016**

- GPA: 3.96, *magna cum laude*

## Current

**National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics** **Fall 2016-Summer 2018**  
*Pre-doctoral Fellow*

- Conduct bioethics research, participate in ethics consultations, shadow clinical rounds, and attend pertinent courses

## Research

**Thesis** **Fall 2015-Spring 2016**

- *Socioeconomic Inequality and the Right to Health*, advised by Dr. John Tomasi
- Argued that high levels of socioeconomic inequality are at odds with a broadly construed right to health

**National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute** **Summer 2015**

- Interned in the HIV Dynamics and Replication Sector of the Viral Recombination Section under the supervision of Dr. Olga Nikolaitchik
- Developed an approach for producing virus-like particles that fluoresce in a predictable ratio

**Brown University, Department of Sociology** **Winter 2015**

- Conducted research with Dr. Susan Short on how social contexts influence health behaviors
- This research was published in the October 2015 issue of *Current Opinion in Psychology*

**International Honors Program** **Fall 2014**

- Conducted research in India, South Africa, and Brazil on how access to water and sanitation affects the health status of women residing in informal settlements

**Georgetown University, Department of Pharmacology** **Summer 2014**

- Investigated the neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptors implicated in nicotine addiction under the supervision of Dr. Robert Yasuda
- Altered the quaternary structure of receptors to create functionally unique subtypes

## Publications

**The New York Times**, Nicholas Kristof's *On the Ground* blog **Fall 2015**

- Co-wrote "[What Do Campus Protesters Really Want?](#)"

## Teaching

**Brown University, Department of Sociology** **Spring 2016**

- Served as a teaching assistant for *Introductory Statistics for Social Research*

**Varsity Tutors** **Fall 2014-Spring 2016**

- Tutored students in organic chemistry and college essay writing

**AP Educators** **Summer 2012**

- Tutored students in writing, pre-calculus, and standardized test preparation

## Service

### **ScholarMatch**

**Fall 2016**

- Currently assisting a high school senior with navigating the college admissions process

### **Brown University Emergency Medical Services**

**Fall 2015-Spring 2016**

- Volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician

### **The Ubuntu Project**

**Spring 2015-Summer 2015**

- Co-wrote a successful grant proposal for an educational program in Worcester, South Africa
- This initiative brought high school students together to work on creative projects addressing substance abuse

### **Shea High School Debate Team**

**Fall 2013-Spring 2014**

- Coached Shea High School's policy debate team in Providence, Rhode Island

### **Mighty City Ambassadors Program**

**Summer 2013**

- Helped a recipient of Brown University's Social Innovation Fellowship implement an afterschool arts and athletics program in Geluksburg, South Africa

### **Máximo Nivel**

**Spring 2012**

- Taught an English language class to nurses at an elderly care facility in Cuzco, Peru

### **Cross-Cultural Solutions**

**Fall 2011**

- Tutored students in math at a primary school in Cape Town, South Africa

## Campus Involvement and Activities

### **Janus Forum**

**Fall 2013-Spring 2016**

- Elected twice as Fellows Director of the Janus Forum, the student wing of Brown University's Political Theory Project
- Organized widely attended debates involving Noam Chomsky, Jeffrey Sachs, and others

### **Meiklejohn Program**

**Fall 2013-Spring 2016**

- Advised nineteen Brown University first-year students on planning their academic paths and navigating college life

### **Brown University Student Conduct Board**

**Fall 2015-Spring 2016**

- Selected to serve on the Board by members of the Undergraduate Council of Students

### **Brown University Debating Union**

**Fall 2012-Fall 2013**

- Won Harvard, Yale, Brown Debate and Brown University's Freshmen Debate Tournament

## Awards

### **NIH Cancer Research Training Award**

**Summer 2015**

### **Brown University LINK Award**

**Spring 2015**

### **Brown University Watson Internship Award**

**Spring 2015**