



Lisa Poley – Senior Research Associate

Lisa Poley was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. However, she spent six years of her youth in Tanzania while her parents worked in international development. She received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics with a concentration in International Development from Virginia Tech in 1991.

She joined the Peace Corps in 1995 after completing a master's degree in Agriculture and Applied Economics with an International Development and Environmental focus from Purdue University. In Ecuador, while in the Peace Corps, she worked with women's cooperatives in small business development and microcredit.

Dr. Poley returned to Virginia Tech and completed her doctorate in Environmental Design and Planning in 2007. While in Blacksburg, she was a founding member and project coordinator in the development of the first Cohousing neighborhood in the area. She is currently a postdoctoral scholar/instructor at Virginia Tech teaching in the Earth Sustainability program and working with VTIPG and VBI on development of a collaborative research and outreach partnership focused on health and infectious disease in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Her research interests include: community building/community development; collaborative neighborhoods and cooperatives; social capital; civic engagement; non-profits and civil society; international sustainable and local economic development; and global and community health.