



Tali Filler is a Research Assistant at the Office of Women’s Health Research Chair in Mental Health at York University. She recently completed her Master’s Degree in Global Health from McMaster University. Prior to her Master’s studies, she attended Western University, where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology in 2016.

Tali’s Master’s thesis research focused on understanding how Syrian refugee adolescents conceptualize mental health. She gained insights from adolescents themselves, as well as service providers who work directly with the Syrian adolescent population. She also worked closely with a community organization in the Greater Toronto Area that focuses on settlement. Her thesis supervisor was Dr. Olive Wahoush (McMaster University) and her committee members were Dr. Kathy Georgiades (McMaster University) and Dr. Nazilla Khanlou (York University).

Tali’s thesis work reinforced her interest in global and community health. In her current work at York University with Dr. Nazilla Khanlou and colleagues, Tali conducts community-based research on women’s mental health and wellbeing. Tali assists with projects that focus on how racialization, gender and disability intersect to inform equity-based community health promotion strategies.

In addition to her work at York University, Tali also works as a Research Assistant at McMaster University in the Global Health Office. In her role, she conducts pedagogical research with Dr. Deborah DiLiberto on a Masters-level global health research methods course. They examine the effectiveness of using high impact learning practices that aim at building Master’s students’ interdisciplinary global health research competencies.

In her free time, Tali loves to stay active, including going to the gym, playing sports and spending time outdoors. She grew up playing competitive soccer, which is what sparked her interest in exercise and health, and she continues to stay very involved in exercise and sports.

Tali’s article that emerged from her thesis work is presented in this edition of the INYI journal. Her article is titled “Addressing Syrian refugee adolescents’ mental health and wellbeing: Policy implications”. For the full article, please see page 5.