



## Isabella M.H. Soparkar

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### Summary

A Fellow and Project Assistant at Meridian Institute with experience working on public policy issues. Graduated summa cum laude from Macalester College with a degree in Environmental Studies, with an emphasis in Climate Science and Policy and a minor in Political Science. Education and work experience have focused on domestic and international climate policy, agricultural systems, environmental justice, free trade, and women in politics.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

2017–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

#### Fellow and Project Assistant

Provides research, writing, and support for policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving facilitators and outside parties. Assists in the preparation of reports, meeting summaries, meeting materials, press releases, and other communications. Specific project highlights include:

- Member of the Meridian team supporting the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA). The primary goal of CLUA is to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon stocks associated with land use management, while protecting the livelihoods and rights of indigenous peoples and poor rural communities and slowing loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity.
- Member of the Meridian team working on the Accountability Framework Initiative, which is aimed at facilitating efforts to define norms and good practices for operationalizing responsible supply chain commitments, thereby filling in vital detail that is missing from high-level pledges.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/isoparkar> for a full list of projects completed.

## Previous Experience

### Macalester College Environmental Studies Dept.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2017

#### *Environmental Classics Preceptor*

Developed students' writing skills, provided input into course syllabus, and helped student discussion leaders create class plans. Received 2017 Outstanding Student Educator of the Year Award.

### Macalester College Environmental Studies Dept.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2016–2017

#### *Senior Honors Thesis Candidate*

Conducted original research on the influence of gender on the climate change policy positions of political figures. Performed statistical voting record analysis and qualitative interviews. Published results in senior thesis.

### Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy

Minneapolis, Minnesota 2016

#### *Energy Program Intern*

Created brochures to explain low-income energy assistance policies. Edited climate and energy white papers.

### Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2016

#### *Sustainability Fellow*

Investigated the economic and social responses of Minnesota farms to international trade policies. Documented changes in farm size, agricultural policy, fertilizer use, renewable energy, and farm technology over the past 20 years.

Traveled across Minnesota visiting farms and conducting interviews.

### The Mac Weekly Newspaper

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2016

#### *Environment and Sustainability Columnist*

Authored interview- and research-based articles on sustainability and environmental topics.

### Dr. Julie Dolan

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2015–2016

#### *Political Science Research Assistant*

Synthesized congressional hearings and recent scholarly work on women in politics. Categorized interview data. Edited 2016 edition of the textbook *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Influence*.

### Macalester College Environmental Studies Dept.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2015

#### *Member of Macalester COP 21 Delegation*

Attended the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Researched climate displacement from small island nations. Interviewed climate displacement scholars and international political figures, including the President of Palau, the Vice President of Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Marshall Islands.

### Macalester College Political Science Dept.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 2015

#### *Writing Assistant*

Taught first-year students college-level writing skills and provided mentorship.



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

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## Education

### Macalester College

B.A., Environmental Studies, *summa cum laude*

Minor: Political Science

Phi Beta Kappa

2017

[www.merid.org](http://www.merid.org)

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