



## Marielena Octavio

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### Summary

A Fellow and Project Assistant at Meridian Institute with a background in environmental policy, agriculture and food security, water management, and community resilience. Graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Science, Technology, and International Affairs. Academic and professional experience have focused on the intersection of environmental issues and social issues and the development of creative policies and actions that further equity and justice.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

2016–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 working on a collaborative effort to accelerate the transition to sustainable fisheries in Indonesia and beyond. Specifically, provided process design support to the Economist Intelligence Unit, to ensure that productive discussion at key international meetings was aligned with our partners' interests.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/moctavio> for a full list of projects completed.

## Previous Experience

### Mellon Sawyer Seminar

Washington, DC

2017

#### *Research Assistant*

Helped in the administration and coordination of Seminar events.

Developed, designed, and managed the website and social media accounts.

Alongside experienced faculty, participated in and facilitated discussions on the climate crisis as a fundamental cultural challenge.

graduate, exchange, and undergraduate populations.

### Inter-American Foundation

Washington, DC

2016

#### *Intern*

Produced written and visual content for the Inter-American Foundation website, social media, and blog. Worked with researchers on development policy and U.S.-Latin America affairs, with a concentration in sustainable agriculture.

### Center for Latin American Studies

Washington, DC

2017

#### *Undergraduate Scholar*

Assisted faculty in conducting advanced and cutting-edge research in a master's program. In particular, developed a research proposal to examine the relationship between food security and nutrition in Latin America.

### Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Washington, DC

2015

#### *Research Assistant*

Assisted in research focused on breast cancer survivors in the Latino community. Translated and transcribed important documents and interviews to/from Spanish and English.

### Office of Global Services

Washington, DC

2016

#### *International Orientation Coordinator*

Designed, organized, and implemented two expansive orientation programs for more than 400 incoming international students. Provided a wide range of information and services to the incoming

### Academic Resource Center

Washington, DC

2014

#### *Spanish Tutor*

Helped students target weak areas and acquire a better understanding of Spanish grammar and Latin American culture.

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## Education

### Georgetown University

B.S., Science, Technology, and International Affairs

2017