

**Sarah Opitz-Stapleton**  
sarah.optiz-stapleton@intasave-caribsave.org  
Biographical Sketch

***Professional Experience***

**INTASAVE Asia Pacific**

**2015 – Present Head of Climate Risk and Chief Scientist**

- Chief Technical Advisor on adaptation planning processes and social vulnerability and risk assessment methodology for Adapting to Climate Change in China Project Phase II
- Technical advisor on Adaptation and Mitigation Co-benefits Project
- Translational sciences for climate services
- Gendered and child-centric vulnerability and risk implications of climate variability and change

**Staplets Consulting, LLC**

**2012 – Present Independent Research Scientist**

- Technical assistance and review of national- and city-level climate adaptation plans for Ecuador, Columbia, and El Salvador (CDKN reviewer)
- Conducting training and capacity building in adaptation planning processes
- Climate services review of Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium’s Plan2Adapt Tool

**Institute for Social and Environmental Transition - International (ISET-Int.)**

**2006 – Present Senior Associate Scientist**

- Climate services - statistical downscaling; extreme event analysis; heat stress and climate-vector-borne disease implications; urban to regional-scale climate variability and change impacts in projects for Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam
- Implications of migration, development and climate change on urban water supply in integrated water assessment modeling for Jaipur, India
- Targeted climate services analyzing and communicating climate data for policy purposes and vulnerability and risk assessment in climate resilience and DRR programs
- Social vulnerability, DRR and climate risk assessments
- Adaptation and resilience framing and implementation with partners in South & Southeast Asia

**The Natural Hazards Center**

Univ. of CO Boulder

**2005 – 2006 Research Assistant**

- Hazards and disasters information collection and dissemination
- The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START): “Community Field Studies and Analysis of Preparedness Networks”

**Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Env. Systems**

Univ. of CO Boulder

**2003 – 2005 Research Assistant**

**Dept. of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering**

Univ. of CO Boulder

**2002 – 2004 Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate (AGEP) Fellow**

**Physics Dept.**

Creighton University

**1998 – 2002 Research Assistant**

***Education***

University of Colorado	Environmental Studies	Ph.D.	2009
University of Colorado	Hydrology (Civil Engineering)	M.S.	2004
Creighton University	Physics (cum laude)	B.Sc.	2002

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**Select Publications**

- Nadin R, Opitz-Stapleton S and Xu Y [Eds.] (2015). *Climate Risk and Resilience in China*, Taylor and Francis: Oxford.
- Opitz-Stapleton S & Liu J (2014). *Gendered Climate Variability and Change Impacts in Jinping and Guangan Counties, Yunnan Province, China*. Final report to PLAN-China, INTASAVE Asia Pacific: Beijing.
- Cozzetto K, Chief K, Dittmer K, Brubaker M, Gough R, Souza K, Ettawageshik F, Wotkyns S, Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2013). Climate change impacts on the water resources of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the U.S., *Climatic Change*, 120: 569-584.
- Street R and Opitz-Stapleton S (2013). *ACCC Resource Manual: Reflections on Adaptation Planning Processes and Experiences*, 134 pp., DfID-China: Beijing.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and Hawley K (2013). *Gorakhpur: Extreme Rainfall, Climate Change and Flooding*, Technical report for ISET and CDKN, ISET: Boulder.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and Sabbag L (2012). *Simple Scaled Climate Projections and Their Potential Implications for Jijiga, Ethiopia*, Technical report for Mercy Corps-Ethiopia. ISET:Boulder.
- Tyler S, Opitz-Stapleton S and Tyler KH (2012). *Plan2Adapt Guidelines for Climate Information Tools*, report for the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, Adaptive Resource Management: Victoria.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and MacClune K (2012). Scientific and Social Uncertainties in Climate Change: The Hindu-Kush Himalaya. In Lamadrid A and Kelman I [Eds.], *Climate Change Modeling For Local Adaptation In The Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region*. Community, Environment and Disaster Risk Management, Emerald Group Publishing: 207-237.
- McNeeley S, et al., Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2012). Catalyzing Frontiers in Water-Climate-Society Research. A View from Early Career Scientists and Junior Faculty. *BAMS*. doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-11-00221.1
- Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2011). *The Uncomfortable Nexus: Water, Urbanization and Climate Change in Jaipur, India*, ISET: Boulder and CEDSJ: Jaipur.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2010), Building Resilience to Climate Change in Asian Cities. In: Otto-Zimmerman K [Ed.], *Resilient Cities: Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change. Proceedings of the Global Forum 2010*, Local Sustainability 1, Springer Science+Business Media: DOI 10.1007/987-94-007-0785-6\_41.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and Gangopadhyay S (2010). A non-parametric, statistical downscaling algorithm applied to the Rohini River Basin, Nepal, *Theoretical and Applied Climatology* 103 (3-4): 375-386, DOI 10.1007/s00704-010-0301-z.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2010). *Only Death is Certain, Yet You Still Get Out of Bed in the Morning: Or, Observations on the Use of Climate Information in Adaptation and Resilience Practice*, Climate Resilience in Concept and Practice: ISET Working Paper 2.
- Moench M & Stapleton S (2007). *Water, Climate Risk and Adaptation*, Working Paper 2007-01, Delft, The Netherlands: Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, Gangopadhyay S and Rajagopalan B (2007). Generating streamflow forecasts for the Yakima River Basin using large-scale climate predictors, *Jn. Hydrology*, 341: 131-143.