



## Curriculum Vitae

### Dr. Sarah Opitz-Stapleton

203 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NJ UK

#### Areas of Expertise

Dr. Opitz-Stapleton has over 14 years' experience providing climate and hydrological services in support of disaster risk reduction and climate resilience programmes.

She has conducted statistical downscaling and extreme event analysis (targeted climate services) to investigate risks associated with shifting urban flooding and water supply thresholds, occupational heat stress and climate-vector-borne disease across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Opitz-Stapleton's applied research lies at the intersection of climate services, social vulnerability and risk analysis and the appropriate use of climate information in disaster risk reduction and sustainability planning initiatives.

She also conducts social vulnerability and risk assessments, and provides technical advice around risk-based adaptation process planning and framing to governments.

#### Professional Experience

2012-  
Present

*Principal Scientist*

**Staplets Consulting, UG and  
LLC**

- Technical Advisor to bridging phase of Adapting to Climate Change in China
- Social vulnerability, disaster and climate risk analysis
- Adaptation process planning and framing
- CDKN Technical Reviewer – national and city-level climate adaptation plans for Ecuador, Columbia and El Salvador
- Climate services review of Pacific Climate Impact's Consortium's Plan2Adapt Tool
- Targeted climate services for ISET-International

2014-  
Present

*Senior Climate Risk Analyst*

**Plan8 Risk Consulting**

- Principal Investigator of Translational Sciences for Climate Services in China – Work Package 5.3 of the Newton funded Climate Science for Services Partnership in China
- Principal Investigator of Assessing Climate Risks to Low Carbon Urban Projects

2017-  
Present

*Research Associate*

**Overseas Development  
Institute**



- Child-centric poverty and disaster risk, including climate risk

2014-2016 *Head of Climate Risk*

**INTASAVE Asia Pacific**

- Chief Technical Advisor of Adapting to Climate Change in China Phase II (ACCCII)
- Technical advisor on the Adaptation and Mitigation Co-Benefits project
- Principal Investigator of Gendered Climate Variability and Change Impacts in Jinping and Guangnan Counties, Yunnan Province, China
- Training and capacity building around risk-based adaptation planning

2006-2011 *Senior Staff Scientist*

**ISET-International**

- Targeted climate services for climate resilience and disaster risk reduction projects in Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, including:
  - Adaptation to Climatic Variability and Change: The Role of Climate Information in Coastal and Other High Vulnerability Regions of South Asia
  - Climate Variability and Social Transition – Water, Urbanization and Climate Change in Jaipur, India
  - The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network
  - Monitoring Climate Change in Nepal
  - Analysis of Global and Regional Change Models, Identification of Hazards and Socioeconomic Implications for the City of Jijiga, Ethiopia
- Social vulnerability, disaster and climate risk analysis
- Adaptation process planning and framing, including as Technical Advisor to the Adapting to Climate Change in China Phase I (ACCCI)

2005-2006 *Research Assistant*

**Natural Hazards Center, Uni  
CO**

2003-2005 *Research Assistant*

**CADSWES, Uni CO**

2002-2004 *Alliance for Graduate Education and  
Professoriate Fellow*

**Dept. of Civil Eng., Univ. of  
CO**



## Education

|      |   |                        |
|------|---|------------------------|
| 2009 | PhD Environmental Studies<br>(Univ. of CO)      | University of Colorado |
| 2004 | MS Hydrology Civil Engineering<br>(Univ. of CO) | University of Colorado |
| 2002 | BSc Physics (cum laude)<br>University           | Creighton              |

## Select Publications

- Opitz-Stapleton S (2017). Water for Disasters, Water for Development. In: Kelman I, J Mercer and JC Gaillard [Eds.]. *The Routledge Handbook of Disaster Risk Reduction Including Climate Change Adaptation*. Routledge International Handbooks.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, L Sabbag, *et al.* (2016). Heat Index Trends and Climate Change Implications for Occupational Heat Exposure in Da Nang, Vietnam, *Climate Services*: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cliser.2016.08.001>.
- Nadin R, S Opitz-Stapleton and Y Xu [Eds.] (2016). *Climate Risk and Resilience in China*, Taylor and Francis: Oxford.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and J Liu (2014). *Gendered Climate Variability and Change Impacts in Jinping and Guangnan Counties, Yunnan Province, China*. Final report to PLAN China. INTASAVE Asia Pacific: Beijing.
- Cozzetto K, K Chief, K Dittmer, M Brubaker, R Gough, K Souza, F Ettawageshik, S Wotkyns, S Opitz-Stapleton *et al.* (2013). Climate change impacts on the water resources of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the U.S. In: Maldonado J *et al.* [Eds.], *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences, and Actions*. Springer: 61-76.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and K Hawley (2013). *Gorakhpur: Extreme Rainfall, Climate Change and Flooding*. Technical report for ISET-Int and CDKN. ISET-International: Boulder.
- Street R and S Opitz-Stapleton (2013). *ACCC Resource Manual: Reflections on Adaptation Planning Processes and Experiences*. INTASAVE Asia Pacific: Beijing.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and K MacClune (2012). Scientific and Social Uncertainties in Climate Change: The Hindu-Kush Himalaya. In: Lamadrid A and I Kelman [Eds.]. *Climate Change Modeling For Local Adaptation In The Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region*. Community, Environment and Disaster Risk Management. Emerald Group Publishing.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and L Sabbag (2012). *Simple Scaled Climate Projections and Their Potential Implications for Jijiga, Ethiopia*. Technical report for Mercy Corps-Ethiopia.



- Opitz-Stapleton S, et al. (2011). *The Uncomfortable Nexus: Water, Urbanization and Climate Change in Jaipur, India*. ISET-Int and CEDSJ, Jaipur.
- Opitz-Stapleton S and S Gangopadhyay (2010). A non-parametric, statistical downscaling algorithm applied to the Rohini River Basin, Nepal. *Theoretical and Applied Climatology* 103 (3-4): 375-386.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, L Seraydarian *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 (2009). *Political Ecology of Safe Drinking Water in the United States with a Case Study Focus on Puerto Rico*. Doctoral Thesis: University of Colorado at Boulder.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, L Seraydarian, *et al.* [Eds.] (2009). *Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN): Responding to the Urban Climate Challenge*. ISET-Int: Boulder.
- Opitz-Stapleton S, S Gangopadhyay and B Rajagopalan (2007). Generating streamflow forecasts for the Yakima River Basin using large-scale climate predictors. *Jn. Hydrology* 341: 131-143.
- Moench M and S Stapleton (2007). *Water, Climate Risk and Adaptation*. Working Paper 2007-01. Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate: Delft, The Netherlands.
- Moench M, R Mechler and S Stapleton (2007). *Guidance Note on the Costs and Benefits of Disaster Risk Reduction*. UNISDR High-Level Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction June 4-7, 2007, Geneva.