



# MERIDIAN180

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## LEADERSHIP

### CORE IDEA GROUP

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Meridian 180 is a multilingual forum for transformative leadership. It relies on a global membership of 800+ thought leaders from academia, government, and business to generate ideas and guidance on the most profound and important matters of our time. Individuals who speak English, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese, with different national perspectives, come together on a digital platform to engage in frank and open exchange of ideas. Born out of the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, Meridian 180 continues to expand its role in anticipating and confronting matters of global concern.

### WHY MERIDIAN 180?

Today's world presents challenges that overwhelm even the experts. Expert focus calls for a narrowing of views and theories; yet modern challenges are expansive, unwieldy, and chaotic. At the same time, the world is on the verge of a global reset: existing paradigms, intellectual frameworks, and modes of expertise are being questioned while new technologies present new challenges to a globally connected world. The Great East Japan earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 illustrated the complexity of catastrophes. The interconnectedness of environmental, economic, psychological, and political challenges posed by the disasters exposed the limitations of expert thinking. The tools, understanding and vocabulary necessary to address complex crises did not exist. From this, Meridian 180 was founded with a mission of preparedness—to engage thought leaders from around the world in developing new ways to address global challenges.

### THE POWER OF BROAD EXPERTISE.

At Meridian 180 we believe in the power of broad expertise to create the new ideas and solutions of our time. Our members come from around the world and represent a wide range of disciplines, expertise, and professional domains. They are scholars, lawyers, policymakers, activists, and business professionals. The diversity of backgrounds, disciplines, cultures, professional experiences, and research interests of our members enables Meridian 180 to avoid the pitfalls of “siloes” expert thinking and to develop new insights and incubate new perspectives and research directions.

### THE POWER OF A GLOBAL CONVERSATION.

At Meridian 180 we believe in the power of a global conversation to create global solutions. For this reason, we are committed to conducting our work and creating outputs in Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean. The diverse cultural and geopolitical perspectives embedded in our work result in the creation of new knowledge that is independent and objective.

Founded in 2012, Meridian 180 is a non-partisan, US registered non-profit 501c3 organization, with bases located at leading universities at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY; Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea; Institute for Social Science at the University of Tokyo; and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Meridian 180 is supported through private donations, and with research funds from its international network of premier research universities. Meridian 180 is directed by Annelise Riles.

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## LEADERSHIP

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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For more information,  
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## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### MULTILINGUAL DIGITAL PLATFORM

Meridian 180 has built a unique digital platform to convene transnational and multilingual research exchange, and since 2011 has hosted 42 online conferences in which members engage in frank and open exchange of ideas. All contributions are translated into Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean to ensure a true global conversation. In 2017, thanks to inkind support from the Einaudi Center, Meridian 180 has invested in a new state-of the art platform with integrated translation capacity and a user-friendly interface. These online conferences generate an eco-system of new research initiatives, regional and global meetings, output-oriented working groups, newsletters, book reviews, essays and white papers. Recent forum topics include truth in a post-truth world, the impact on aging societies on social justice, and an examination of truth in democratic processes.

### WORKING GROUPS

Meridian 180 convenes unique global working groups, with participants from academia, business, NGOs, and government. The working groups are aligned with Meridian 180's research initiatives taking ideas generated in the online conferences and furthering research from a transdisciplinary and international approach. The US base currently directs three international working groups in nuclear energy, financial governance, and digital/cybersecurity. The Korea base directs 13 international working groups on a wide variety of topics critical to the Asia-Pacific region.

### ANNUAL GLOBAL SUMMIT

Each year, Meridian 180 members gather at international live meetings to forecast research on crises to come. The first summit was held in 2016 in Okinawa, Japan, convening participants from 32 unique universities and businesses spanning eight countries to generate ideas on "Developing Proposals for Risk Mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region." In 2017, participants from 13 countries and 46 universities and businesses attended Meridian 180's second summit in Brussels, Belgium to build new models of cooperation in response to the rise of inward-looking societies. Meridian 180's next global conference will be held in Hong Kong, in June 2018, to explore the new paradigm of "Digital Humanity: Risks and Opportunities."

### E-BOOKS

In partnership with the Einaudi Center for International Studies and Cornell University Press, Meridian 180 will be releasing a series of ebooks and digital publications featuring research conducted by the working groups and through the research nodes at Meridian 180 bases. The first book, *The Politics of Central Banking*, will be released in 2018, with other publications to follow on issues of crisis thinking, nuclear energy, and the impact of aging on democracy.

### DIGITAL HUMANITY: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The vast reach of digital networks and data production is of concern to citizens, consumer, governments, and corporations, and involves questions that are technical, legal, political, and social in nature. Meridian 180's newest research initiative brings together computer scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists, and hackers activists from Asia, Australia, US, and Europe to explore new approaches to this pressing global challenge.



Cornell Law School



MARIO EINAUDI  
Center for International Studies



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