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Jorgensen has studied and written about a variety of related public policy topics, including welfare reform, Native constitutional reform, tribal policing and justice systems, Indian housing, and tribal gaming and forestry enterprises. Increasingly, this work also has addressed the problems and concerns of First Nations in Canada.

Jorgensen has been a visiting scholar at the Washington University School of Law and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, has served as an instructor in economics at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health, and is a former member of the Swarthmore College Board of Managers. She received her B.A. in economics from Swarthmore College (1987), B.A. and M.A. in human sciences from the University of Oxford (1989, 1995), M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (1991), and Ph.D. from Harvard University (2000).