



Kelsey Freeman

Social Science Research Scholar
Precourt Institute for Energy

Bio

BIO

Kelsey is an award-winning writer, policy researcher, and advocate focused on rural community development, Indigenous rights, migration and climate change.

She is currently a Social Science Research Scholar at Stanford University's Precourt Energy Institute, where her work focuses on supporting Native American tribes in their clean energy goals. Through this role, she is also seconded to the Tribal Affairs program at the California Energy Commission (CEC), where she is helping launch a landmark policy-making process in collaboration with California tribes to ensure they can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Kelsey draws on 10 years focused on tribal sovereignty and has a strong track record of building programming to support tribes. She previously worked at Central Oregon Community College, where she collaborated with tribes across Oregon to start a college-readiness program for Native American high school students. She also facilitated workshops on equity, advised the college's Dreamers' Club, and served on the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Her debut book *No Option but North* (IG Publishing) was published in 2020 and is based on her year on a Fulbright Fellowship in Mexico interviewing Central American migrants. It interweaves their stories with research into the policies that reveal the fundamental tensions involved in contemporary migration. It won the 2021 Colorado Book Award in creative nonfiction and was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. It also received acclaim in *Publisher's Weekly*, *The New York Journal of Books*, *Choice Reviews of the Association of College and Research Libraries*, and many others. She has since spoken and interviewed across the U.S. on immigration policy. Kelsey has written for *Stanford International Policy Review*, *UCLA's Journal of Law and Environmental Policy*, *The Mantle*, *Complex(ion) Magazine*, and is the recipient of a Steinberg Reporting Award.

From 2022-2025, Kelsey was a Knight Hennessy Scholar at Stanford studying international policy and environment and resources. During this time, she worked with Nevada's green bank to help develop their tribal clean energy program, conducted research on international climate displacement and organized a course and conference on climate migration. She is the author of the report "Understanding Federal Indian Law for Renewable Energy," published by Stanford Law School.

Kelsey holds an MA in international policy and an MS in environment and resources from Stanford University and a BA in government and legal studies from Bowdoin College.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Social Science Research Scholar, Precourt Institute for Energy