



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Introducing Maine SSN Policy Fellows 2024-25

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the [Maine SSN Chapter](#) is thrilled to continue its "Policy Fellows" initiative, now entering its third year. This initiative offers personalized, one-on-one support to help researchers elevate their public voices and strengthen their policy impact—especially those early in their careers or exploring new avenues in public engagement. The Maine SSN welcomes two new Policy Fellows.

2024-25 Maine SSN Policy Fellows:

- Stefano Tijerina (University of Maine, Orono)
- Joyce Bennet (Bates College)

STEFANO TIJERINA

University of Maine, Orono



Stefano Tijerina obtained his Ph.D. in History at the University of Maine in 2011, and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Maine's Maine Business School. He has been the inaugural recipient of both the Maine Historical Society's Chris Kibrak Research Fellowship (2023) and the Canadian Business History Association's Chris Kibrak Research Fellowship (2018), as well as a Provostial Fellow (2024) and a Provostial Fellow at the University of Maine. He has published on the modern history of business expansion into Latin America. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *American Review of Latin American Studies*, *Ensayos Sobre Política Económica*, *Desafíos*, and *Perspectivas Colombo Canadienses*. He has also contributed to several volumes including; *Big Business and Dictatorships in Latin America: A Transnational History of Profits and Repression*, *Canada-U.S. Trade Negotiations*, *"A Samaritan State" Revisited: Historical Perspectives on Canadian Foreign Aid*, *Estudios sobre Conexiones Transnacionales, Negocios y Diplomacia en las Américas*, and *Working for Oil: Complicity and Control in the Petroleum Industry*. He is the author of *Opportunism and Goodwill: Canadian Business Expansion in Colombia, 1867-1914*.

JOYCE BENNET

Bates College



Joyce Bennett is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Bates College whose research and teaching focus on navigating the global neoliberal economy at the nexus of language revitalization, feminism, social justice, and migration. She focuses on the Kaqchikel Maya-speaking population of the Western highlands of Guatemala, but she also works with diverse groups throughout Guatemala and with Indigenous and other marginalized peoples in North America. Collaboration with the people and places academics study through mutual collaboration and respect is fundamental for her research. Her current research was born. Her current research focuses on Maya women in Guatemala and their attempts to navigate the global neoliberal economy through intellectual property rights. She is the recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Scholars award in 2022-2023 and a Wenner-Gren Foundation, also in 2022-2023, which supports that work. Her scholarly work includes *Migration, Clothing, and Language Revitalization in Highland Guatemala* (University of Alabama Press, 2022) and articles in *Anthropology*, *International Journal of Women's Studies*, *Maya America*, and more. Last year, she took a sabbatical and has since published three in *Newsweek*, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *The Dallas Morning News*. She just moved forward to connecting with others here, and is very grateful for the space to expand her skills in creating