



Mark Siegel

Topics

Best Selling & Award Winning Authors, Children & Young Adults

Travels From

New York

Bio

Mark Siegel is the founder, and Creative and Editorial Director of First Second Books, Macmillan's graphic novel house. First Second offers an ambitious collection in every age category, in a wide range of themes and styles, with talent from all over the world. First Second has garnered an unmatched array of literary awards, starred reviews and bestsellers—including for the original works of National Book Award Finalist and Printz Winner Gene Luen Yang, and beloved bestselling titles such as *This One Summer*, *Real Friends*, *Spill Zone*, and many more. Mark has appeared before thousands of librarians and educators to speak about the graphic novel renaissance. Alongside First Second, Mark is the author and illustrator of several award-winning picture books and graphic novels, including *Seadogs*, *Long Night Moon*, *To Dance*, *Moving House*, and *Sailor Twain*, which author John Irving called “a gripping novel with compelling characters, enhanced by haunting, erotically charged artwork.” Mark's latest project is the collaborative graphic novel *5 Worlds*, an epic science-fiction series for young readers. The *New York Times* Book Review hails it as “. . . a bang-zoom start to a series that promises to be epic

in both the classical and internet senses of the word. . . this is a capital-S Saga.” Mark has given lectures and workshops internationally and all around North America, for authors, artists, librarians, students, executives in many venues, at tradeshow, companies, Comic Cons, and animation studios, including Blue Sky, Dreamworks, Disney, and Pixar, for both creative and executives.

SPEECHES

The Great American Graphic Novel

Mark Siegel presents a short and entertaining history of comics in America from early pamphlets, to today’s unprecedented graphic novel renaissance. Discover the special moment we are in, and where it may be heading, and some of the extraordinary graphic novelists who belong in any well-rounded reading diet.

The Impossible Dance of Art & Business

This popular workshop has been honed all over the country. Even though it explores the creative life from the book publishing angle, it is now in demand with TV and feature animation studios. Siegel discusses how to reconcile art and commerce and their inherent contradictions—in one’s life or in a project. It is a unique insight, offering tools to help both executives and creatives communicate with each other.

Living the Creative Life

For creators in any medium: Mark Siegel takes a layered look at the challenges, inner and outer, facing a creative pursuit in the world today. Siegel provides unique tools, examples and stories to encourage and nurture authors and artists in every field, drawn from his own unique experience as an editor and as an author.

Fiction and the Quest for Truth

There are a great many impulses driving people to create stories in books, in film and on stage. Money and fame are a motivation for many; but others long to make lasting, meaningful works. For that there are other motives besides profit: what about the uplift motive? The healing motive? How about the truth motive? Whether in fiction, in art, in story, in journalism or in life—many of the greatest creations are driven by a daring love of truth.

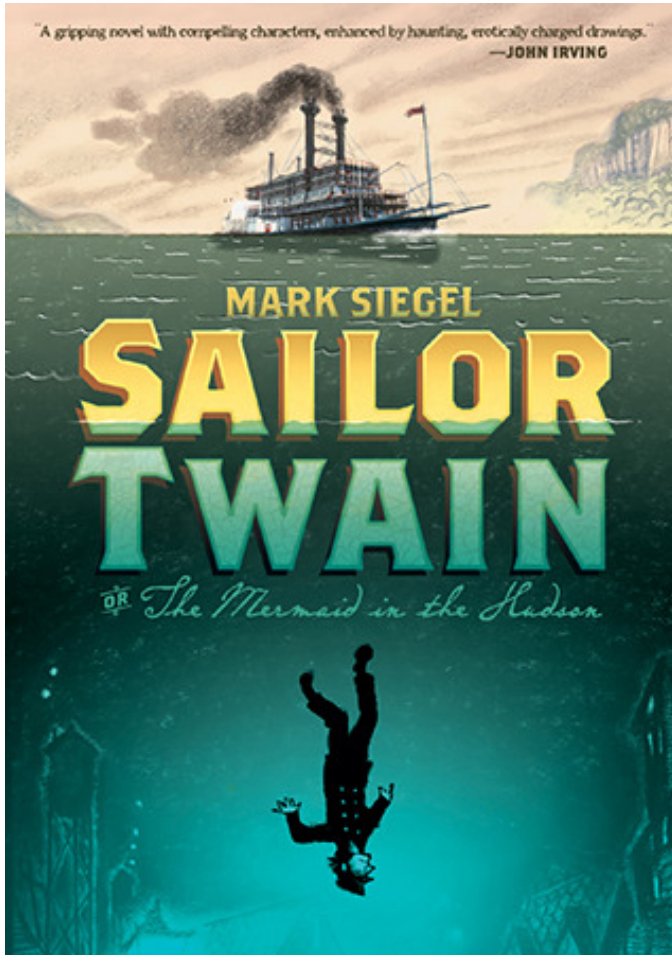
'Making Of' Workshop: *Sailor Twain*

Get behind-the-scenes of making the New York Times bestselling graphic novel for adults *Sailor Twain*, or the *Mermaid in the Hudson*. Also very popular in colleges and creative venues—sharing the magic and mishaps of making a book is always entertaining and inspiring. Other workshops include making *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*, and making *5 Worlds: The Sand Warrior*, a unique collaborative series.

Graphic Novels and a New Visual Literacy

Mark Siegel's lecture features visual story mechanics, tools for the classroom, data and resources on literacy and visual media.

BOOKS



Paperback

[Sailor Twain](#) Or: Mermaid on the Hudson

First Second

A mysterious and beguiling love story with elements of Poe, Twain, Hemingway, and Greek mythology, drawn in moody black-and-white charcoal, this new paperback edition of the New York Times Best-Selling graphic novel by author/illustrator Mark Siegel is a study in romance, atmosphere, and suspense. Don't miss *Sailor Twain*.



[Between the Panels 2](#) An Exciting Look Behind the Scenes at Four Fantastic New Graphic Novels

First Second Books

Have you ever asked yourself what goes on in comics between the panels and behind the scenes? *Between the Panels 2* gives you an inside look at the making of four great new graphic novels: *Broxo*, by Zack Giallongo; *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke; *Bloody Chester*, by JT Petty and Hilary Florido, *Sumo*, by Thien Pham, and *Sailor Twain*, by Mark Siegel.

E-Book

REVIEWS: “Thank you for your inspiring and fascinating lecture and presentation. The students were deeply impressed with you. You gave them much to think about and I believe you may have changed a few lives today.”

—John Canemaker, Animation Area Head, NYU Tisch

“First Second is one of the great literary presses of the modern world.”

—boingboing.net

“The gold standard for the new graphic novel is First Second.”

—Snow Wildsmith

“The workshop, explored playful ways to communicate complex topics and demonstrated the power of the comics medium as a tool for literacy in an increasingly visual culture.”

—Edward Finn, Director, Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University

**Kelly Parsons****Topics**

Best Selling & Award Winning Authors, Health & Wellness, Motivational Speakers

Travels From

California

Bio

Dr. Kelly Parsons is a practicing surgeon, professor at the University of California San Diego, accomplished scientist, and the award-winning author of two acclaimed novels. Author Stephen King praised his first novel, *Doing Harm*, as the “best damn medical thriller I’ve read in 25 years.” His second novel, *Under The Knife*, has been called an “an engrossing story about revenge, grief, technology, and hospital practices” (*Associated Press*) and an electrifying thriller that “tops the charts in suspense” (*Suspense Magazine*) with “characters that leap off the page.” (*CriminalElement.com*) Dr. Parsons is a passionate, entertaining, and highly experienced public speaker. For over 20 years, he has lectured to doctors, nurses, hospital leaders, scientists, medical students, doctors-in-training, business leaders, patient groups, and community organizations. Drawing on his unique observations as a surgeon, scientist, and novelist, he inspires audiences to tap their innate creativity and rediscover their passions. He earned an A.B. in History from Stanford University, M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and completed medical training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

SPEECHES

Science, Literature, and Creativity: Using Both Sides of Your Brain Maximize your creative potential in unexpected and innovative ways. Through Kelly Parsons' experiences as a surgeon, scientist, and novelist, he argues how our brains are much more interconnected than we may think, and explain how to tap scientific creativity in unexpected ways.

Doing Harm: Medical Mistakes Explained Nearly 100,000 patients die each year in U.S. hospitals from medical mistakes. Using real-life examples that inspired Kelly Parsons' novels *Doing Harm* and *Under the Knife*, he explains what these mistakes are, how they occur, and how to avoid them.

Creativity and the Surgeon Practicing surgery or medicine is an art as much as a science. Parsons describes how creative writing has influenced his career as a doctor in wonderful and unexpected ways, and how his experiences may guide and inspire others in the health care and science fields.

Preventing Career Burnout by Nurturing your Passion The American Medical Association estimates that over half of all doctors in the U.S. suffer from burnout. Parsons describes how fiction writing reignited his passion for medicine, and how his experiences may help doctors rediscover their love for the healing arts.

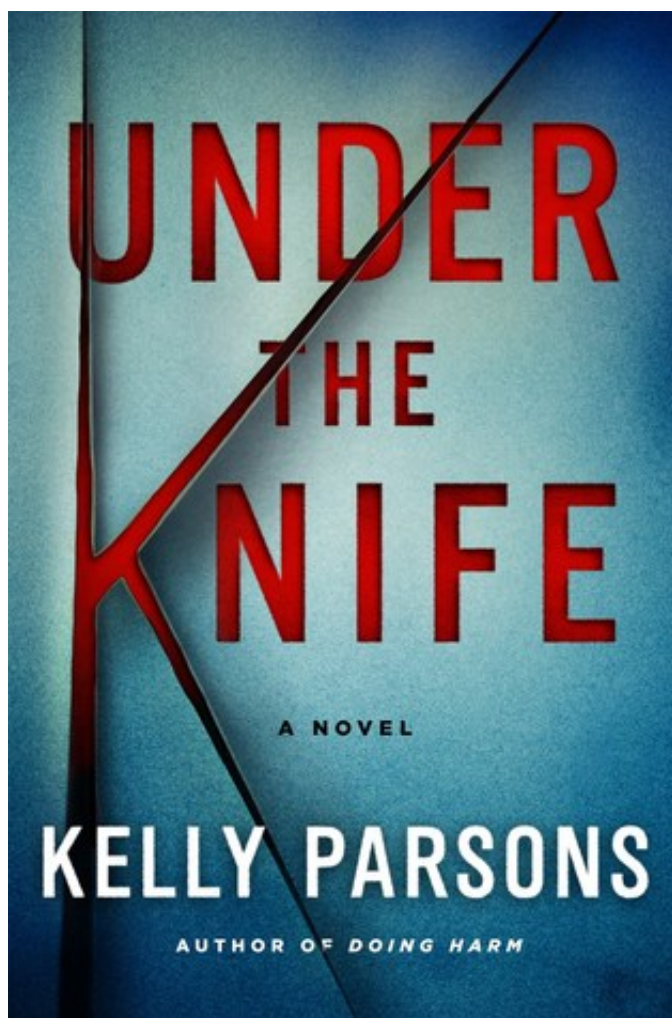
Doctors as Storytellers: Discover Your Inner Novel Many doctors are aspiring writers. Kelly Parsons uncovers secrets for nurturing and releasing that inner fiction or non-fiction book, including development of ideas, time management, and the process of writing from outline to publication.

BOOKS

[Under the Knife](#) A Novel

St. Martin's Press

Biotechnology tycoon Morgan Finney is highly intelligent but shy and emotionally fragile. When his beloved wife Jenny dies of complications during a surgery led by Dr. Rita Wu, Finney's grief turns to rage. He vows to kill Rita just as he believes she killed his wife.

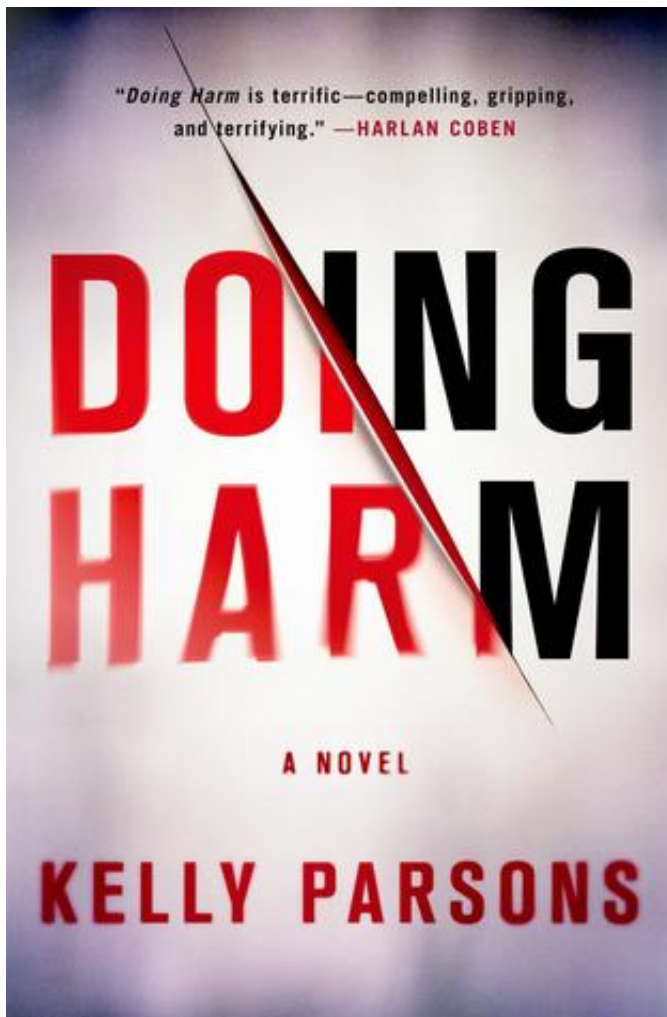


Hardcover

[Doing Harm](#) A Novel

St. Martin's Paperbacks

Chief resident Steve Mitchell is the quintessential surgeon: ambitious, intelligent, confident. Charged with molding a group of medical trainees into doctors, and in line for a coveted job, Steve has a bright future. But when a hospital patient mysteriously dies, it becomes clear that it's a case of foul play. And the killer is set on playing a deadly game with Steve.



Paperback

REVIEWS: “Especially exceptional lecture...one of my favorite lecturers we’ve ever had...stupendous job...crystal clear and enjoyable.”

“One of the best, if not the best, lecturers at UCSD. Truly an engaging, informative, and memorable lecture experience.”

“I appreciate how deeply [Dr. Parsons] cared about us actually learning and remembering the material.”

- Medical Students of the University of California San Diego

Reviews for *Under the Knife*

“An engrossing story about revenge, grief, technology and hospital practices. The suspense level is high...[Parsons] is well underway to becoming one of the top authors in the medical thriller genre.”

— *Associated Press*

“Tops the charts in both suspense and horror...Kelly Parsons has hit yet another home run.”

— *Suspense Magazine*

Reviews for *Doing Harm*

“With a deft initial setup reminiscent of Grisham’s *The Firm*, urologist Parsons’s strong first novel paints a picture of the competitive, ego-driven realm of a world-class teaching hospital and the kind of personalities that thrive there...The attention to detail keeps the action chillingly plausible...”

— *Publisher’s Weekly*

“[*Doing Harm*] certainly provides a dramatic view of hospital procedures in and out of the surgical suite. And once Steve finds out the identity of the ruthless killer, the pace picks up nicely, providing readers who like Robin Cook and Michael Palmer with incentive to add Parsons to their must-read lists.”

— *Booklist*



Alexander Weinstein

Topics

Best Selling & Award Winning Authors, Culture & Society, Religion & Faith, Science & Technology

Travels From

Michigan

Bio

Alexander Weinstein is the Director of The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing and the author of the short story collection *Children of the New World* (Picador 2016). He is a dynamic and passionate reader, speaker, and educator, who has presented at venues from big stage to more intimate conferences, including The PEN World Voices Festival, Google, NPR, The Copenhagen Writer's School, and universities throughout the US. His fiction and presentations explore topics including speculative fiction and storytelling, the role of literature and creative writing in the 21st Century, and how our ever-growing dependence on new technologies (such as social networking, robotics, and virtual reality) is changing the shape of our society. Alexander Weinstein's debut collection, *Children of the New World*, was chosen as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, NPR, Google, *Electric Literature*, and was featured by *Entertainment Weekly* as a Must-Read Book of 2016. Barbara Seaman, in her *Booklist* review, calls Weinstein's book "Mind-blowing...In the vein of George Saunders, Rick Bass, and Alex Shakar, Weinstein writes with unflinching sensitivity and supercharged imagination, creating nuanced stories harboring a molten core of astutely satirical inquiries. Sparking disquieting thoughts about how vulnerable our brains are to electronic manipulation... Weinstein's brilliantly original and provocative tales explore the malleability of memory and self, the fragility of intimacy and nature, forging a ravishingly powerful, cautionary vision." Alexander Weinstein's writing and interviews have appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, *World Literature Today*, *Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy 2017*, and *Best American Experimental Writing 2017*. He is a recipient of a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award, and his fiction has been awarded the Lamar York, Gail Crump, Hamlin Garland, and New Millennium Prizes. He is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing and a freelance editor.

SPEECHES

TECHNOLOGY & FICTION IN THE 21st CENTURY Following a book reading, Weinstein discusses the ever-changing and current presence of technological advance, focusing on topics of social media addiction, family and media, and more.

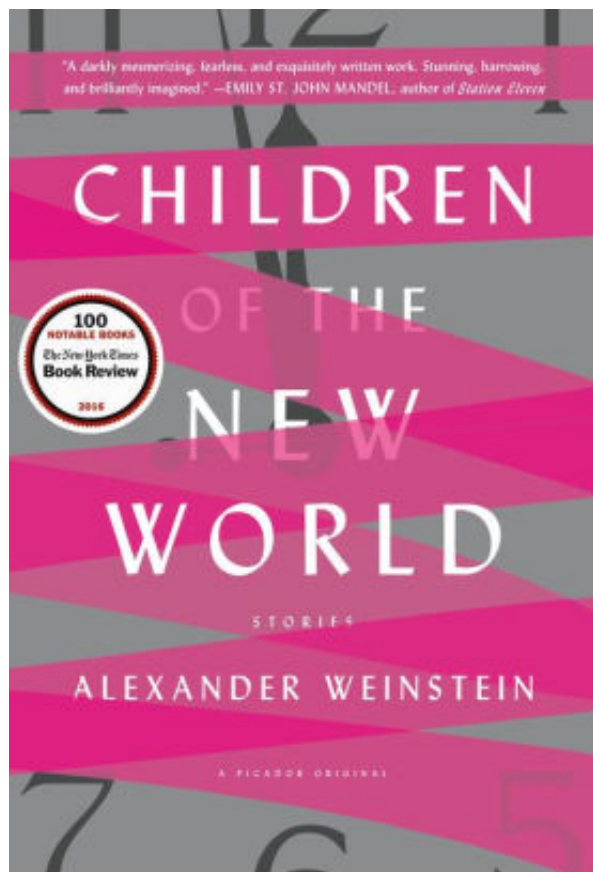
SPECULATIVE FICTION/SCI-FI & FANTASY Weinstein leads a discussion on speculative fiction, sci-fi, and fantasy in literature and their impact on contemporary fiction.

POLITICS & FICTION: WRITING IN THE AGE OF TRUMP Weinstein speaks about important issues of fiction and art, and the role of literature in the post-election times.

SPIRITUALITY & WRITING In talks focusing on the intersection of Judaism, Buddhism, and Shamanism, Weinstein discusses faith and religion's relationship to storytelling, fiction, and fantasy.

DYSTOPIAN/UTOPIAN VISIONS OF THE FUTURE Alexander Weinstein leads a book reading and discussion of dystopian fiction, politics, and how literature can work to impact the larger society.

BOOKS



Paperback

[Children of the New World Stories](#)

Picador

An extraordinarily resonant and prophetic collection of speculative short fiction for our tech-savvy era by debut author Alexander Weinstein. *Children of the New World* introduces readers to a near-future world of social media implants, memory manufacturers, dangerously immersive virtual reality games, and alarmingly intuitive robots. Many of these characters live in a utopian future of instant connection and technological gratification that belies an unbridgeable human distance, while others inhabit a post-collapse landscape made primitive by disaster, which they must work to rebuild as we once did millennia ago.

REVIEWS: “Touching on virtual families, climate change, implanted memories, and more, Weinstein’s debut collection of digital-age sci-fi stories is scary, recognizable, heartbreaking, witty, and absolutely human.... This is mind-bending stuff. Weinstein’s collection is full of spot-on prose, wicked humor, and heart.”

—*Publisher's Weekly*

“Mind-blowing... In the vein of George Saunders, Rick Bass, and Alex Shakar, Weinstein writes with stirring particularity, unflinching sensitivity, and supercharged imagination, creating nuanced stories harboring a molten core of astutely satirical inquiries. Sparking disquieting thoughts about how vulnerable our brains are to electronic manipulation and how eventually consciousness itself might be colonized by corporate and governmental entities, Weinstein’s brilliantly original, witty, and provocative tales explore the malleability of memory and self, the fragility of intimacy and nature, forging a ravishingly powerful, cautionary vision.”

—*Booklist*



Matthew Prescott

Topics

Culture & Society, Environment & Sustainability, Food & Wine, Global Affairs, Health & Wellness

Travels From

Texas

Bio

Matthew Prescott is the author of [*Food Is the Solution: What to Eat to Save the World*](#) (with foreword by Academy Award-winning director James Cameron), due out Spring 2018 from Flatiron Books. A leading figure in the global movement to reform how we farm and eat, Prescott is Senior Director of Food Policy for the Humane Society of the United States as well as advisor to the Good Food Institute. A sought-after speaker and thought leader, Prescott has spent over a decade and a half sharing his ideas with Ivy League universities, Fortune 500 companies, consumers, and more. His work has helped lead to sweeping changes in the supply chains of hundreds of major food companies, impacted countless individuals' diets, and been covered extensively by the media: his work has been featured by CNN and in the pages of the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, the *Boston Globe*, and countless more; his writing has been published in the *Washington Post*, *Barron's*, and others; his photographs have appeared in the likes of *Rolling Stone* and *Food & Wine*; he has appeared as a guest on national television news programs; and he was even once a guest on NPR's *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me*. He lives in Austin, Texas with his wife, the writer Lara Prescott.

SPEECHES

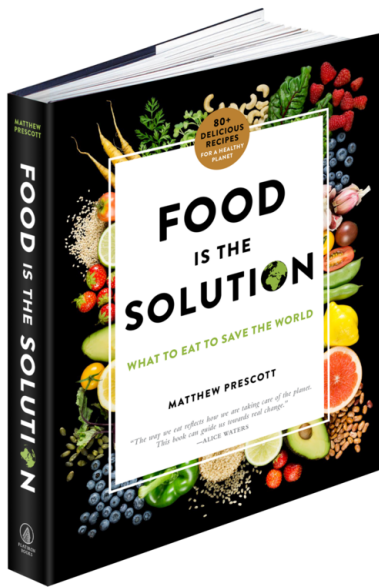
Food Is the Solution: What to Eat to Save the World How we eat plays a major role in shaping our planet. From deforestation to climate change, many of our biggest environmental challenges can be traced back to our plates. With *Food Is the Solution*, food policy advocate, thought leader and author Matthew Prescott takes us on a global journey to discover which foods harm or heal the planet, and how our global food system is currently in the midst of a major revolution that stands to make it more efficient and more sustainable.

BOOKS

[Food Is the Solution](#) What to Eat to Save the World

Flatiron Books

How we eat plays a major role in shaping our planet. From deforestation to climate change, many of our biggest environmental challenges can be traced back to our plates. With *Food Is the Solution*, leading



social and food policy advocate Matthew Prescott takes us on a global journey to discover which foods harm or heal the planet—while sharing 80 great-tasting recipes proven to help us all eat cleaner & greener.

Hardcover

REVIEWS: Praise for *Food Is the Solution*

"Food is power, and this book will help you use it."

- Chef David Chang, Momofuku

"*Food Is the Solution* is the guide I wish I had as a young mom. This is the blueprint for anyone who eats."

- Laurie David, Academy Award-winning producer of *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Up*

"Devour this book. Eat it up. It might just save your life *and* the world."

- Dr. Michael Greger, author of *How Not To Die*

"Individual action can lead to collective action, and collective action opens the door for system wide, positive change. So please do all you can, starting at home -- where Matthew Prescott's inspiring book can guide you to some healthy and delicious choices."

- Fred Krupp, President, Environmental Defense Fund

"Eating with the Earth in mind has never been easier, thanks to this important and eye-opening book."

- John Mackey, Whole Foods Market founder and CEO

"This motivating book highlights how we can make a big difference to the future of the planet simply through our food choices."

- Paul McCartney

"The first recommendation for my patients with heart disease is a primarily plant-based diet. This book can help us all live healthier while treating the planet better."

- Mehmet Oz, M.D.

"The planet needs us, and this book can help."

- Moby



Daniel Connolly

Topics

Activism & Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Culture & Society, Diversity & Inclusion, Education, Global Affairs, Journalism

Travels From

Tennessee

Bio

Daniel Connolly is a longtime journalist specializing in coverage of immigration to the United States, particularly Mexican immigration. He is the author of [The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America](#). Daniel has won numerous awards from state and national journalism organizations and received grants from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the

International Center for Journalists. His past speaking engagements have included a wide range of schools, colleges, universities and professional groups. Among his notable appearances are a keynote at the annual book festival Bookstock in Memphis, multiple appearances at national conferences of the group Investigative Reporters and Editors, as well as special appearances at City University of New York Law School and Princeton University. His goal in every speech is to keep the audience engaged through frequent questions, concrete examples, attention-grabbing visuals and memorable stories.

SPEECHES

Today's Immigration Battles - How We Got Here, Where We're Going In this vivid and engaging talk, Daniel explains the federal policy decisions that led to today's immigration battles. For years, federal immigration policy was like a coconut - hard on the outside (a tough, militarized border) and soft on the inside (a U.S. interior with virtually no immigration enforcement.) The federal government allowed millions of unauthorized immigrants to live in this country, but with limited rights. Daniel explains how this history shapes today's dramatic events.

Understanding and Engaging With Children of Hispanic Immigrants Roughly one in four young people in the United States today has at least one immigrant parent. In this interactive, fast-moving talk, Daniel explains what he learned in his years following immigrant families in Memphis, outlining the challenges facing this important group of young people, and suggesting solutions to meet their needs.

Working Across Cultures to Understand America's Hispanic Population Daniel isn't Hispanic, but he's fluent in Spanish and has a deep network of sources and contacts within immigrant populations in the U.S. In this talk, he'll offer tips to groups and organizations that wish to improve their relationships with the various Hispanic populations in the U.S., whether for social services, education, business or related purposes.

A Life in Journalism In this talk geared toward college students, Daniel offers colorful accounts of his life as a reporter, from covering tiger attacks at a local zoo as a college journalist to delving into the lives of transborder drug traffickers. The talk helps bring the journalism world to life and helps students discern if this profession might be right for them.

Advice For Writers Daniel offers a wide range of practical seminars to help writers reach their potential. Among them:

- Time Management and Organization for Writers and Researchers
- Understanding the Book Publishing World
- How to Find a Literary Agent
- Improving Your Writing: a process approach based on lessons that Daniel learned from legendary writing coach Chip Scanlan and that he uses every day to produce polished, professional prose.

BOOKS

