



Daniel Connolly

Topics

Activism and Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Culture and Society, Diversity and 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. He recently was one of a group of journalists who contributed to "the Migrants," a massive *USA Today* project about Central American migration. 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 2019, Daniel was among a select group of journalists who took part in USA Today's international journalism project "The Migrants," a deep look at today's migration from Guatemala and Honduras.

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.

How the Immigration Story Became Daniel's Story Daniel has been covering immigration for years, and in 2018 the immigration story became highly personal for him when he married a woman born in the Dominican Republic. Together they worked to obtain her U.S. citizenship, helped her and her family members navigate the U.S. health care system, and planned to raise their own bicultural children. This personal talk helps give a real-world perspective to the abstract issues surrounding the immigration topic.

Immigration Policy During the Coronavirus Pandemic As the coronavirus pandemic sweeps across the world, Daniel continues to cover the immigration story as part of USA Today's national immigration team. Daniel will speak on the up-to-the minute issues affecting the lives of tens of thousands of people trying to enter the United States - and the millions of other immigrants who already live here.

The U.S. Supreme Court and DACA The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling in 2020 on the future of DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This is the program that offered work permits to a select group of young immigrants who had been brought to this country illegally or on visas that later expired. Daniel studied DACA extensively while writing "The Book of Isaiah" and shares his thoughts on the meaning, limitations, and future of the program.

BOOKS