

Segal, Daniel A.

b. 22 August 1958, New York City, USA

Daniel Segal's work incorporates fine-grained analysis of cultural ideologies and rhetorical practices within the grounded constraints of political economy and social structure, and is refracted in a sequence of interrelated projects. He initially conducted ethnographic research for his Master's degree in a US medical school, analysing cultural and ideological aspects of American biomedicine. In his dissertation-related work (published in dispersed articles), Segal develops a critical analysis of race, nationalism, and history; he shows how nations emerge as variable, contingent objectifications of social relations by examining the shifting colonial and post-colonial discourses of race in Trinidad and Tobago within individual life histories, the state politics of national representation, symbolic politics of Carnival, and local inflections of international development discourses. His post-dissertation work involves a critical genealogical study of 'Western Civ' and World History textbooks and survey courses; he shows how social evolutionary thinking continues to organise and underlie not only Western ideologies of history but also the division of academic labour in the human sciences. And in a fruitful collaborative effort, Segal and Richard Handler have analysed the writings of Jane Austen in order to demonstrate the context sensitivity and perspectival polysemy of cultural action, suggesting insights from Austen's rhetorical strategies for ethnographic representation and cross-cultural analysis.

Education

BA Cornell University, 1980

MA University of Chicago, 1983

Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1989

Fieldwork

US medical school (anonymous), 1981–2

Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, 1983,

1984–5, 1986, 1992

Key Publications

(2000) "'Western Civ' and the staging of history in American higher education', *American Historical Review* 105, 3: 770–805.

with Handler, Richard (1990) *Jane Austen and the Fiction of Culture: An Essay on the Narration of Social Realities*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press.