Daniel L. Selden

Raised in Cleveland, Ohio, a city both racially and ethnically highly diverse, Professor. Selden began traveling the world at an early age — factors that have no doubt contributed to his abiding interest in intercultural poetics. He took two undergraduate degrees at Yale (Italian Literature, History of Art), then stayed on to complete his graduate work there in Comparative Literature, under the supervision of Paul de Man. His first job took him to Columbia University. Then, after a fellowship at the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles, he joined the Literature faculty at UCSC, whose leftist orientation and porous boundaries strongly impacted his work. Stanford, Emory, the F.-U. in Berlin, the universities of Padova, Durgapur, and Cambridge have all invited him to teach there for varying amounts of time. A visiting appointment at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago allowed him to perfect his command of Egyptian, as well as West and South Semitic languages. He has written on all periods of Levantine, Mediterranean, and European culture from the Bronze Age to the present, most recently the Persianate world from India to Istanbul. He has lectured all over the world, and scholars from 167 different countries currently follow his work, including Mongolia, Swaziland, and the Holy See.