

Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows

By Julie Manga

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When *The Phil Donahue Show* topped the ratings in 1979, it ushered in a new era in daytime television. Mixing controversial social issues, light topics, and audience participation, it created a new genre, one that is still flourishing, despite being harshly criticized, over two decades later. Now, the daytime TV landscape is littered with talk shows. But why do people watch these shows? How do they make sense of them? And how do these shows affect their viewers' sense of what constitutes appropriate public debate?

In **Talking Trash**, Julie Engel Manga offers a fascinating exploration of these questions and reveals the wide range of reasons viewers are drawn to “trash talk.” Focusing on such shows as *Oprah!*, *Jerry Springer*, *Ricki Lake*, *Jenny Jones*, and *Maury Povitch*, and drawing upon interviews with women who watch these shows, **Talking Trash** is the first examination of the talk show phenomenon from the viewers’ perspective. In taking this approach, Manga is able to understand what talk shows mean to the women who watch them. And by refusing to judge either the shows or their viewers as good or bad, she is able to grasp how viewers relate to these shows-as escape, entertainment, uninhibited public discourse, or an accurate reflection of their own hardships and heartaches. Manga concludes that while the form of “trash-talk” shows may be relatively new, the socio-cultural experience they embody has been with us for a long time.

Absorbing, entertaining, and keenly perceptive, **Talking Trash** illuminates the complex viewer response to “trash talk” and examines the cultural politics surrounding this wildly controversial popular phenomenon.

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Editorial Review

Review

“An important contribution to our understanding of the talkshow genre and its cultural political function.”
-*American Journal of Sociology*

“Provides a stunningly effective analysis of the diverse ways in which viewers make sense of the contentious culture of TV talk shows. The result is a first-rate sociological contribution to the study of popular culture, mass media, and public discourse. Attentive to both personal experience and complex vectors of power, Talking Trash involves a subtle and challenging interpretation of the transgressive lure, structural limitations, and utopian yearnings underlying this controversial realm of televisionary entertainment.”
-Stephen J. Pfohl,author of *Images of Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological History*

“A cogent analysis of our culture.”
-*The Times*

“A wide-ranging exploration of some key theoretical issues in cultural sociology centering on subjectivity, sense-making, and cultural hierarchy.”
-*Contemporary Sociology*

About the Author

Julie Engel Manga is a Senior Research Associate at The Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Gentry:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each facts they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the

details in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Richard Graham:

Often the book Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

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Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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