



## Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows

By Julie Manga



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**Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows** By Julie Manga

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 Povich*, 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:

#### Olga Harrington:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your

spare time, often the book you have read is Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows.

**Anita Jones:**

The book untitled Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

**Cynthia Haynes:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is Talking Trash: The Cultural Politics of Daytime TV Talk Shows this reserve consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some study when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book suited all of you.

**Mary Perez:**

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