

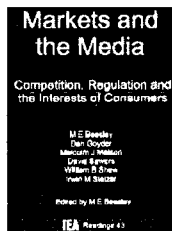
## New in the library

The following books have been selected from the range of new additions. These notes are indicative of a book's subject matter, but are not intended as critical comment or review. The ABA invites the public to use the Library for research purposes, by appointment. The Library's email address is [library@aba.gov.au](mailto:library@aba.gov.au)

### **Markets and the media: competition, regulation and the interests of consumers**

Edited by M. E. Beesley. London: Institute of Economic Affairs, 1996. ISBN 0255363788. (IEA Readings 43)

The media industries are favoured candidates for regulation. Governments sometimes seem unwilling to let markets in media work, claiming imperfections and failures which necessitate regulation. Inevitably, the outcome is a huge regulatory edifice, involving massive compliance costs for firms and individuals, and striking at the roots of economic change by severely hindering entrepreneurship. This book, examining the media environment in Britain,



questions the extent to which is regulation feasible, given that technological advance is blurring the dividing lines among different forms of media. It also considers the question whether such problems in the

media - for example, concentrations of power through dominant owners — are widespread enough to have that market processes cannot be trusted to protect consumers. Specific chapters in *Markets and the Media: Competition, Regulation and the Interests of Consumers* address the issues of copyright, digital technology and its implications, the future of public service broadcasting, and concentration and diversity.

### **Not a pretty picture: ethnic minority views of television**

Bob Mullan. Aldershot: Avebury, c1996. ISBN 1859724981

Ethnic minorities in the UK make up over 5% of the population yet are hardly represented in the hundreds of hours of terrestrial broadcast television each week. Television critics have for some time argued that the often stereotypical, unbalanced portrayal of non-whites is harmful. The lack of positive non-white role models for children to identify with is leading to growing alienation and disaffection. Now, ethnic minorities in-

creasingly define themselves in opposition to white institutions. They are turning towards separate channels narrow-casting provided to meet their own television needs. Based on extensive survey research and interviews with actual viewers, *Not a Pretty Picture* investigates the whole issue of television and ethnic minority viewers: their viewing choices, their criticisms, their feelings and the way they are portrayed. The author concludes that for most of Britain's ethnic minority communities, television is a white medium controlled by whites, portraying white culture and denying non-whites a voice.

Not a Pretty Picture  
Ethnic minority views  
of television

### **Prime-time feminism: television, media culture, and the women's movement since 1970**

Bonnie J. Dow. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996. ISBN 0812215540

In *Prime-Time Feminism*, Bonnie Dow examines feminist representation in popular entertainment television and argues that television has been a key participant in the cultural dialogue about feminism in the USA. The author focuses on how the medium adapts to, structures and attempts to frame cultural understandings of social change over time. A wide variety of television programming is discussed, with specific case studies of some popular programs. Dow juxtaposes analyses of genre, plot, character development and narrative structure with the larger debates over feminism that took place at the time the programming originally aired. She emphasises the power of the relationships among television entertainment, news media, women's magazines, publicity, and celebrity biographies and interviews in creating a framework through which television viewers make sense of both the medium's portrayal of feminism and the nature of feminism itself.

