

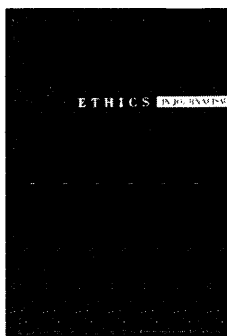
New in the library

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 e-mail address is library@aba.gov.au

Ethics in journalism: report of the Ethics Review Committee, Media and Arts Alliance, Australian Journalists' Association Section

Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 1997. ISBN 0522848141

This book provides the rationale for the proposed new code of ethics for journalists: one which emphasises more openness and better enforcement. The code contains twice as many points as the previous code. It is a twenty point document with explanatory notes to each clause, including concrete examples and practical solutions. The codes in *Ethics in Journalism*, if followed, should result in journalists' deciding, acting and reporting ethically. It should also serve as a day-to-day guide to responsible journalism and as a resource for media lecturers and students, as well as a standard against which the public can measure media performance. It is not a law; instead it aims to provide guidance for practitioners wanting to apply basic values and to engage in conscientious decision making.



Public intimacies: talk show participants and tell-all TV

Patricia Joyner Priest. Cresskill, NJ.: Hampton Press, 1995. ISBN 157273003X

Daytime talk shows have been largely neglected as an area of inquiry in communications research. Their sensational nature, characterised by critics as freakish, cause them to be overlooked as if they were of little consequence. The talk show host as well as studio audience members and callers ask a variety of intimate questions. The tell-all nature of these programs make them popular with viewers. This book addresses questions about television's role in the lives of marginalised groups and

their efforts at countering cultural stereotypes in the public sphere. This book attempts to answer a variety of questions about daytime talk shows: why do people choose to appear to discuss subject normally consider as off-limits? Are participants highly invested in television as an important part of their lives? Participants in this genre provide one of the few forums into which ordinary people can step to centre stage and discuss their lives. The resultant exposure to a variety of groups outside the margins of society may have a significant effect on the public's attitudes towards members of such groups. However, the focal point is the impact on the participants themselves. In *Public Intimacies: Talk Show Participants and Tell-all TV*, the author weaves together the fields of sociology, psychology and mass communication to provide interesting empirical evidence to support recent claims that televisual reality represents the valued reality - better than real.



Mass media and free trade: NAFTA and the cultural industries

Edited by Emile G. McAnany and Kenton T. Wilkinson. Austin, TX.: University of Texas Press, 1996. ISBN 0292751982

This book is about the North American Free Trade Agreement and the cultural industries and trade of the three signatory nations, Canada, Mexico and the USA. It asks whether NAFTA is likely to have an impact on trade in the area of cultural products and services and in foreign investment among the partners, and what the agreement is likely to mean

**MASS
MEDIA
AND
FREE
TRADE**

NAFTA and the Cultural Industries

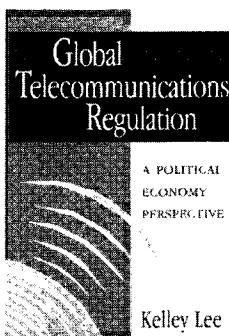
EDITED BY
Emile G. McAnany and
Kenton T. Wilkinson

for the cultures of the three nations. It also asks how the likely extension of NAFTA to include other Latin American and Caribbean countries might affect the flow of cultural products, what difference it will make in the internal cultural dynamics of each nation, and how it will affect their ability to compete even for their own national audiences. Issues addressed in the book include the size and dominance of US cultural industries, what real difference NAFTA will make in cultural trade, and new industry technologies and industry structure. The book promotes the view that as new technologies and rapidly growing markets push the products of cultural industries into a growing number of homes of audiences around the world, problems of culture shock, national identity, and threats to cultural sovereignty become part of politics and public discourse.

**Global telecommunications:
a political economy perspective**

**Kelley Lee. London: Pinter, 1996.
ISBN 1855672235**

The author of this book, Kelley Lee, analyses from a global political economy perspective, the International Telecommunications Union, the key UN specialised agency concerned with one of the foremost strategic issues currently faced by governments and industrial interests, ie global ownership and control of information and communication technologies. In its development of theoretical issues and empirical analysis, the book raises fundamental questions regarding the understanding of international organisations and the nature of the information revolution. This study offers a critical analysis of the interests, institutions and ideas that lie behind global telecommunications regulation. The analysis is achieved by considering the ITU from two perspectives. First, the organisation is seen as a product of its historical and contemporary context,

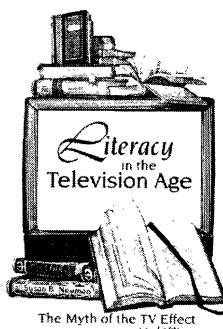


shaped by the interests, institutions and ideas of prevailing world orders. Second, the ITU is seen as contributing to the emergence of such world orders as a proactive force in bringing about change, including the emerging global political economy. This dual or reciprocal relationship between internal organisation and world order provides a much fuller understanding of the economics and politics - the political economy - of global telecommunications regulation.

**Literacy in the television
age: the myth of the TV effect.**

**Susan B. Neuman. 2nd ed.
Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 1995. ISBN
1567501613**

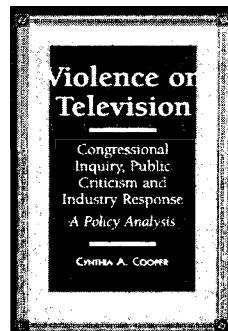
Literacy in the Television Age examines both argument and evidence for television's influence on literacy and school achievement. It discusses issues such as whether television has contributed to a decline in literacy skills; whether there are certain cultural biases toward television which narrowly define its uses as a learning tool; whether these issues can be resolved to take advantage of new opportunities that the television medium presents. It does so by reviewing the major studies to date, drawing on literature from psychological and educational studies and communication research. It then moves to a series of studies analysing the relationship between the medium and literacy using both quantitative and qualitative measures. The author concludes that television has not replaced or diminished literacy. Rather there is a synergy among media. Television provides a variety of fare that, when used appropriately, has the potential to complement and enliven literacy. The responsibility and challenge of using television to expand children's learning and literacy lies not in the technology but principally in the hands of educators.



**Violence on television:
Congressional inquiry, public
criticism and industry
response: a policy analysis**

**Cynthia A. Cooper. Lanham, MD.:
University Press of America, 1996.
ISBN 0761804773**

Cynthia Cooper sets out to explore the major issues and participants in the public policy debate surrounding violence on television. The issue of violence on television has drawn much attention from both the public and government. This is largely as a result of television and its effects being seen as a pervasive force in American society. Parents are concerned about the effects of television violence on their children, and the police are concerned with the unrealistic portrayal of crimes on television being responsible for rising crime rate. However, the television industry executives and those supporting the First



Amendment argue that broadcasting deserves the freedom to program its networks free of government intervention. Since 1954, the US Congress has held twenty-eight hearings to investigate television violence; these represent a major focus of the present study. While many issues are explored, the Congressional hearings in particular have provided a forum for government inquiry and public criticism and thus played a significant role in the development of the debate over the last forty years. *Violence on Television* attempts to discover the trends, patterns and motivations of participants in the debate of violence on television. The debate falls into three distinct phases - each with a specific focus and set of policy participants. The early phase of concern dealt with the effect of television violence on a growing juvenile delinquency rate; the second with the social and behavioural effects of television violence on society as a whole, and the final phase involved legal and legislative remedies of reducing television violence.