

- [Academics](https://www.scu.edu/academics/) (<https://www.scu.edu/academics/>)
- [Admissions](https://www.scu.edu/admission/) (<https://www.scu.edu/admission/>)
- [Centers](https://www.scu.edu/aboutscu/) (<https://www.scu.edu/aboutscu/>)
- [Communication](https://www.scu.edu/cas/communication/) (<https://www.scu.edu/cas/communication/>)

# Scholar Commons (<https://scholarcommons.scu.edu>)

[COMMUNICATION](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/communication/) ([HTTPS://SCHOLARCOMMONS.SCU.EDU/COMM](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/communication/))

## [The political-economic origins of Reali-TV](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=comm) (<https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=comm>)

---

### Authors

**Chad Raphael**, *Santa Clara University* ([https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/do/search/?q=%28author%3A%22Chad%20Raphael%22%20AND%20bp\\_author\\_id%3A%5B%2A%20TO%20%2A%5D%29%20OR%20bp\\_author\\_id%3A%28%220e5d4355-618b-41b0-ae03-7a5eb0c2753d%22%29&start=0&context=7599519](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/do/search/?q=%28author%3A%22Chad%20Raphael%22%20AND%20bp_author_id%3A%5B%2A%20TO%20%2A%5D%29%20OR%20bp_author_id%3A%28%220e5d4355-618b-41b0-ae03-7a5eb0c2753d%22%29&start=0&context=7599519)) Follow (<https://network.bepress.com/api/follow/subscribe?user=ZTlxNjM0OTc1YTI5ZDBmZQ%3D%3D&institution=MzRhZjg1MDNmNWVjZDAzYQ%3D%3D&format=html>)

### Document Type

Book Chapter

### Publication Date

2009

### Publisher

New York University Press

### Abstract

From the sea change in American television in the 1980s emerged a programming trend variously described as “infotainment,” “reality-based television,” “tabloid TV,” “crime-time television,” “trash TV,” and “on-scene shows.” The welter of terms created by television critics to describe these new programs masked their underlying connection as a response to economic restructuring within the industry. In this essay I offer a rough categorization of these programs, sketch the industrial context from which they emerged, and point to the economic problems they were meant to solve. I focus mostly on the distinctive conditions of prime-time series, putting aside made-for-TV docudramas and entire cable channels (such as Court TV) that may have similar production practices and genres.

### Chapter of

[Reality TV: remaking television culture](http://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.08301.0001.001) (<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.08301.0001.001>)

### Editor

S. Murray  
L. Ouellette

### Comments

1st edition published in 2004.

Copyright © 2009 New York University Press. Reprinted with permission.

We use cookies that are necessary to make our site work. We may also use additional cookies to analyze, improve, and personalize our content and your digital experience. For more information, see our [Cookie Policy](https://www.elsevier.com/legal/cookiepolicy) (<https://www.elsevier.com/legal/cookiepolicy>)

[Cookie Settings](#)

[Accept all cookies](#)



Included in

[Communication Commons \(https://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/325\)](https://network.bepress.com/hgg/discipline/325)

## Share



([#facebook](#))



([#linkedin](#))



([#whatsapp](#))



([#email](#))



(<https://www.addtoany.com/share?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscholarcommons.scu.edu%2Fcomm%2F21%2F&title=%22The%20political-economic%20origins%20of%20Real-TV%22%20by%20Chad%20Raphael>)

COinS

To view the content in your browser, please [download Adobe Reader \(https://get.adobe.com/reader/\)](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) or, alternately, you may [Download \(https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=comm\)](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=comm) the file to your hard drive.

NOTE: The latest versions of Adobe Reader do not support viewing PDF files within Firefox on Mac OS and if you are using a modern (Intel) Mac, there is no official plugin for viewing PDF files within the browser window.

We use cookies that are necessary to make our site work. We may also use additional cookies to analyze, improve, and personalize our content and your digital experience. For more information, see our [Cookie Policy \(https://www.elsevier.com/legal/cookiepolicy\)](https://www.elsevier.com/legal/cookiepolicy)

[Cookie Settings](#)

[Accept all cookies](#)