



# The Triumph of Reality TV: The Revolution in American Television

*By Leigh H. Edwards*

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This book provides an up-to-date account of how reality TV has developed, why it has become the most popular genre on television today, and how the explosion in reality TV signals new developments in American media culture.

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## **The Triumph of Reality TV: The Revolution in American Television** By Leigh H. Edwards **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Her brief yet well-researched study focuses on the genre's portrayal of family. . . . Edwards focuses her research on popular culture and media studies. This, her third book on pop culture, would be good for advanced high school students, undergraduates, graduate students, and armchair media scholars. Summing Up: Recommended." - **Choice**

#### Review

"In her new, and crucial, addition to the critical analysis of reality television, Edwards has not only broken new ground in television studies, but has finally put 'reality' television into the political and social context that has eluded other scholars for the last decade. *The Triumph of Reality TV: The Revolution in American Television* not only cogently analyzes how limited the word 'television' is to describe the modern multi-platform viewing experience, but also how the new 'narrative universe' of reality television attracts a distinctly active audience. In an unusually evocative chapter, Edwards points out one of the most important factors involving reality television today, 'how reality television both reflects and helps shape changing American family ideals,' an often overlooked aspect of reality television. By analyzing how much of reality television programming is analogous to our current debates about the changing nature of family in America, Edwards points out the ways in which the modern American family is constructed, both on-screen and off. Most importantly, by pointing out that the much-maligned genre 'does not simply reflect current beliefs and debates in a society, but helps to shape them,' Edwards tellingly points out that we dismiss reality television's importance at our peril." (Dr. Brian Cogan is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communications at Molloy College in New York. He is the author, co-author and co-editor of numerous books, articles and anthologies on popular culture, music and the media. His latest book projects are *Everything I Ever Needed to Know About \_\_\_\_\_ \* I Learned from Monty Python*" \**Including History, Art, Poetry, Communism, Philosophy, the Media, Birth, Death, Religion, Literature, Latin, Transvestites, Botany, the French, Class Systems, Mythology, Fish Slapping, and many more!* (Co-written with Jeff Massey) St. Martins Press (2013). He is currently co-writing the autobiography of legendary punk drummer Marky Ramone.)

#### About the Author

**Leigh H. Edwards**, PhD, is associate professor of English at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.

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