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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [186]-197) and index.
Nota di contenuto	chapter 1 Television talk and talking about television -- chapter 2 The mass media, democracy and the public sphere -- chapter 3 Studio debates and audience discussions -- A television genre -- chapter 4 The critical viewer -- chapter 5 Media constructions of expertise and common sense -- chapter 6 Media management of argument and rhetoric -- chapter 7 Studio discussions, social spaces and postmodernity.
Sommario/riassunto	Not only is everyday conversation increasingly dependent on television, but more and more people are appearing on television to discuss social and personal issues. Is any public good served by these programmes or are they simply trashy entertainment which fills the schedules cheaply? Talk on Television examines the value and significance of televised public debate. Analysing a wide range of programmes including Kilroy, Donohue and The Oprah Winfrey Show, the authors draw on interviews with both the studio participants and with those watching at home. They ask how the media manage discussion programmes and whether the programmes really are providing new 'spaces' for public participators. They find out how audiences interpret the programmes

when they appear on the screen themselves, and they unravel the conventions - debate, romance, therapy - which make up the genre. They also consider TV's function as a medium of education and information, finally discussing the dangers and opportunities the genre holds for audience participation and public debate in the future.
