

Lee, Hee Eun, Chosun University, Korea

Cultural Citizenship in Multicultural Society: Storytelling on Reality Television Shows in Korea

Reality television' power renders an investigation of its relationship to cultural citizenship more urgent, because citizens have been turning to the sources of political information and cultural sensibility in the talk-shows and reality-format programs. One of the compelling features of the shows is the extent to which their use of real people's storytelling, often crisscrossing the private and the public. Focusing on the reality television shows in Korea, this paper explores the meanings and effects of the shows on the constructions of cultural citizenship. As media have been playing the intimate role in the everyday lives of citizens, audiences employ a complex ensemble of media to get engaged with cultural politics. Such a cultural engagement is also intensified and/or contested by public's imaginations on public issues. This study suggests that we need to account for the dynamic role of the television shows to enhance multiple forms of citizenship.