



## The Politics of Public Opinion in the Novels of Anthony Trollope

A 'Tenth Muse'

By Jan Gordon

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**This book is an interesting take on how public opinion has risen in the nineteenth-century British novel and how it has an impact on politics.**

*The Politics of Public Opinion: Trollope's 'Tenth Muse'* takes as its subject the rise of public opinion in the nineteenth-century British novel as (1) a uniquely collective narrative form posing as a singular voice and (2) a "voice" that distances itself from re-sponsibility by disguising its presence. As both immanent and transcendent, public opinion is aligned with "empty universals" that generate meaning.

### Readership

The book would appeal, especially, to readers of the works of Anthony Trollope and the Victorian novel's experiments with narrative form and to political scientists interested in responses to and defenses against rampant increase in the role of and resistances to public opinion that accompanies new platforms and increased vehicularities of its inputs into daily life.

### Key selling points

1. Addresses public opinion as an elusive narrative form and legal subject in the *Barsetshire Chronicles* and *Parliamentary Novels* of Anthony Trollope.
2. Attempts to chart the operational dynamics of public opinion formation in comparison with inscribed law in the nineteenth-century British fiction.
3. Attempts to compare and contrast the role of the gossip with the attempt to manage and manipulate public opinion in the Victorian novel.
4. Attempts to define and to analyze a "politics" of public opinion and the strategies of its distribution and resistance.

### Contents

Preface: Overture to an Initial Public Offering; Chapter One The "Prosthetic Body" of Public Opinion in Barsetshire; Chapter Two Miming the Law; Chapter Three "Playing" the Opinion Market; Chapter Four The "Management" of Public Opinion in Trollope's Bureaucracies; Chapter Five The Sugar; Index

### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Jan B. Gordon was one of a group of six foreign academics invited to professorships at National Universities in Japan when the law was changed in 1983 prohibiting non-Japanese from holding such positions. He was granted Emeritus Status in 2004 and from 2007 to 2014 was a distinguished professor at Kyoto Women's Department of English. He was therefore initially what is known as a white (affirmative action) appointment.

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