

European Sociological Association, Research Network 19 “Sociology of Professions” Interim meeting 2020 in collaboration with the Utrecht University Focus area Professional Performance and the Utrecht University School of Governance

Dynamics of Professions and Professionalism: Performance, Quality and Trust

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Call for papers

Ongoing societal changes strongly influence professions and professionalism. For instance, the internet has an impact on the availability of information and on the way in which people communicate; the pace of technological development – including artificial intelligence – is leading to automation of a growing number of professional tasks. Meanwhile, globalisation, migration and changing geopolitical relationships are affecting the organisation of global production processes. In addition, professionals are becoming more connected across organisational, sectoral and national boundaries.

These changes have far-reaching consequences for the society in which professionals operate, for the organisations in which professionals work, and in addition, they change the relationships between them and professional groups. Furthermore, the change occurs in the nature of the tasks that professionals perform, roles in which they work, and what is expected and required of them in general.

During this conference, we want to emphasize the changing tasks and roles of professionals, the expectations and requirements they face, and the implications for the development of expertise during their working life. Issues concerning the connection between work, development and lifelong learning are highly important in such a context.

By taking this stance, we also offer space to different disciplinary perspectives on these issues, especially, but not only, disciplines that have their focus on specific professions (such as the life sciences, law, psychology, educational sciences, veterinary sciences). Furthermore, with a few round tables and/or forum debates, we also want to engage in dialogue together with representatives of professional organisations.

The following broad questions will guide the discussion:

- 1. How do changing social demands and social contexts influence the professions and professional organisations as well as the dynamics of developing/changing professions?*
- 2. What factors are central in organising professional quality and trust, in different domains?*
- 3. How does socialisation take place, how do professionals learn, how do they acquire relevant expertise, and how do they adapt to changing contexts?*

We invite papers, both empirical and theoretical, on established and emerging professions, and concerning these or other related issues.

Abstract submission is open until Feb. 16, 2020. Please send your proposal (maximum 250 words) to: esarn19@gmail.com