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PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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Abstract: In this Element, we engage with fundamental questions concerning the future trajectory of professions as a distinct occupational category and of the formal organizations which represent, employ or host professionals. We begin with a literature review that identifies a functionalist, power and institutionalist lens for the study of professional occupations and organizations. We then review a series of challenges which face the contemporary professions. Finally, we explore contemporary developments in the worlds of professions applying three units of analysis: macro (professional occupations and their associations), meso (professional organizations) and micro (professional workers).

Keywords: professional organizations, professional occupations, professionals, professional services firms, sociology of the professions

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