

Interim Meeting

University of Florence (Italy), 4-6 July 2019

Call for Papers

S1 Varieties of Professionalism. Exploring heterogeneity within and between professions

Andrea Bellini, University of Florence (Italy)

Lara Maestripieri, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)

Karolina Parding, Luleå University of Technology (Sweden)

Labour markets are facing increasing challenges, nowadays. For instance, tertiarization, globalisation and feminisation change the structure and composition of the labour force, the digitalisation implies the growing importance of platforms as labour providers, the increasing resistance towards public regulation puts in question the feasibility of pursuing an ideal-typical “traditional” professionalisation for emerging professions. All those trends have changed profoundly the way people enter paid work and experience their professional employment throughout their careers. The instability in employment and working conditions, the rising polarisation between bad and good jobs, the declining role of intermediate bodies, such as trade unions, and professional bodies are pieces of evidence fiercely debated since a long time in the sociology of work. On the other hand, they are still under-investigated in the field of sociology of professions, as if professionals were immune from those trends.

We argue that a rise in heterogeneity in professionalism derives from the trends mentioned above across two dimensions; within and between. “Within” because there is an increasing fragmentation experienced within professional groups, among those who can secure a good job, and those who cannot (i.e. freelance, short-contractors/temps, collaborators, providers of digital services), but there is also an increasing fragmentation among insiders and outsiders, like women, practitioners of migrant or working-class background. “Between” because there is an increasing differentiation across professional groups and professionals practising in different national contexts (i.e. Southern and Eastern Europe, emerging economies and the LACs), interested to a different extent in the processes of de/re-regulation. But, also, because traditional and emerging professions experience change in different ways, reacting differently to the digitalisation, marketisation, and precarization of professional services for instance.

In this session, we invite both theoretical and empirical papers that aim to investigate heterogeneity, differentiation and change among traditional and emerging professions. We are particularly interested in comparative studies, either across professions within the same national context or within the same professions across nations. We also warmly invite contributions that explore professionalism and its national/local/contextual peculiarities in Southern and Eastern Europe as well as in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Call for Papers

We invite papers focusing on either a single professional group and country or adopting a comparative perspective. The proposals must be sent in a word file, be written in the English language, and include:

- Preferable session (see the list and detailed descriptions below);
- Title of the paper;
- An abstract of no more than 250 words;
- Name(s) and contact details (affiliation, country, e-mail) of the author(s).

Please, **submit your proposal** via email to the conference organizer (rc52florence2019@gmail.com), no later than **31 March 2019**.

All submitters will receive an e-mail notification on the acceptance or rejection of their paper proposals by 15 April 2019.

The authors of the selected proposals can send a full paper (at their discretion), possibly no later than 15 June 2019, in order to make it available to the participants in due time.