

Abstracts

Professional Regulation - The Portuguese Case

This communication intends to present the characteristics of the professional regulation pattern in which Portugal is integrated, and to highlight recent trends of the Portuguese case. In this sense, we demonstrate how professional associations with self-regulating power have proliferated in the democratic period, and how the Law 6/2008 came to prevent it. Nevertheless, this new legal framework has stimulated occupational groups to make pressure in order to acquire the self-regulating status. We conclude sustaining the need of transparency and effectiveness of self-regulation in these associations.

Raquel Rego

Methodological Remarks

The aim of this presentation is to reflect on a number of questions raised to sociologists when working on the scope of sociology of professions, namely the methodological framework, the ethical and legal principles imposed by the State to approve a professional association and the ethical principles which govern the activity of the sociologists themselves. Those reflections are based on the experience of sociologists when interacting with clients and other social role-players involved in a process of professionalization of an occupational group.

Luísa Veloso

The Regulation of the Liberal Professions in the EU

In most European countries liberal professions are heavily regulated, as regards both the entry in the professions and the conduct of the professional activities. The impact of the EU internal market has a huge impact on the regulation of liberal professions, due mainly to the freedom of circulation of services, freedom of establishment, non discrimination on national grounds and competition rules. With the completion of the single market on services the regulation of the liberal professions will not be the same any more.

Vital Moreira

Professional Regulation in Canada - Historical and Current Trends

In Canada, professional regulation is generally a provincial responsibility, and the extent, nature, and content of legislation regulating professions varies across province. Nevertheless, as a nation, Canada has been very active in regulating professions since the country became a nation in 1867. Professional regulation takes several different forms in the country, but traditionally, regulated professions in Canada have been distinguished from those in many other nations by the degree of autonomy they were granted by the state. This has diminished starkly over time, as the state plays an increasingly active role in regulating professions and professional work. In this talk, I review the nature of, and key changes in, professional regulation in 5 Canadian provinces, and discuss new regulatory trends.

Tracey Adams

European Patterns of Professional Regulation: National and International Theorizing

The presentation will address the issue of European patterns of professional regulation using concepts and theories from the sociology of professional groups. In a discipline dominated by within-state theorizing, the challenge is that the markets for, and the organizations which deliver, professional services are increasingly international. The presentation has three sections. The first is a section on definitional and conceptual issues which includes an interpretation of the concepts of professionalism, regulation and the regulatory state. The second section focuses on the European dimensions of professional regulation including the work of the European Professional Federations. The third section considers the nation-state dimensions of professionalism. One conclusion is that important questions, about professional work and its practitioners, are in need of research, analysis and examination.

Julia Evetts