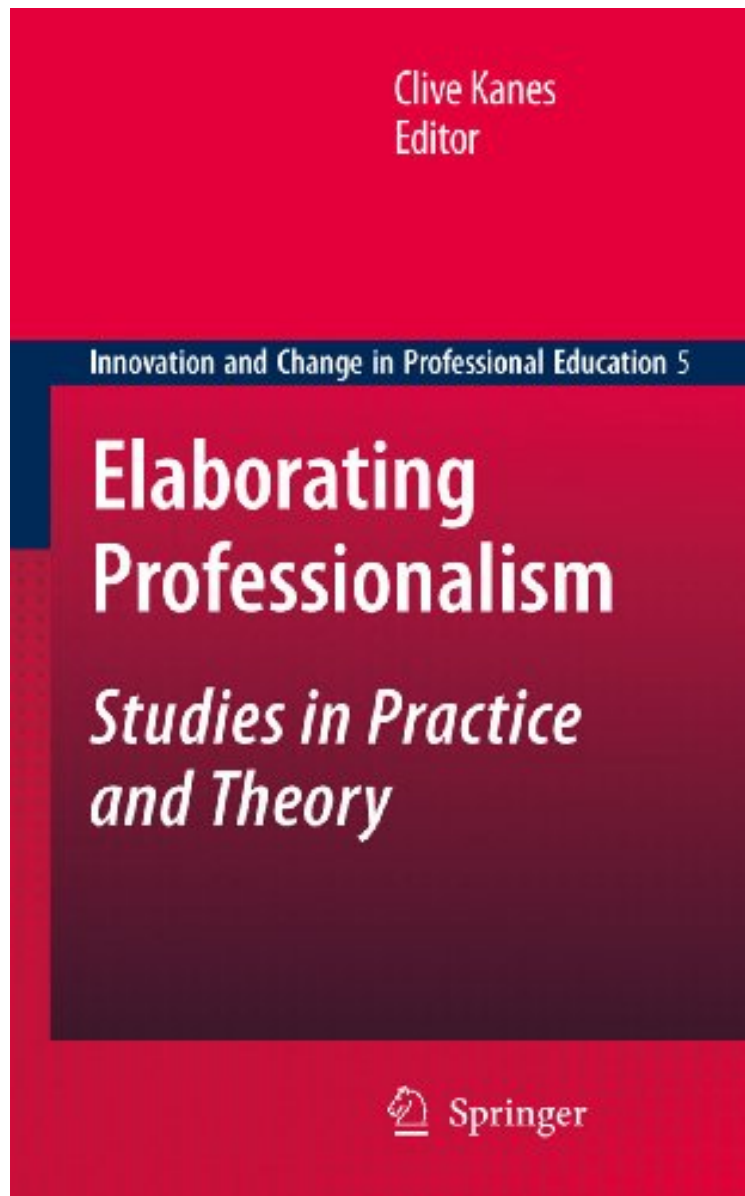


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Elaborating Professionalism: Studies in Practice and Theory: 5 (Innovation and Change in Professional Education)

Clive Kanes (Ed.)

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Education):

What are the future possibilities for the standing of professional practice as it faces growingly problematic markets for services, complex demands for managerial accountability and control, and problematic circumstances and expectations in its ethical and self-regulative governance? New sources of inspiration may be needed if professionalism is to be either a viable or desirable form for the social organisation of work in the coming years of potentially deep economic and social change. Set in the UK, South Africa, Australia and the USA, the empirical studies included elaborate problematic situations of professional practice concerning issues of identity and knowledge. The theoretical studies explore the notion of generic processes; elaborate the plurality of notions of professional practice; theorise the hybridisation witnessed in inter-professional and cross-disciplinary team work; and outline new theoretical departures relating to these. Elaborating professionalism also raises important methodological issues relating to professionalism as ethical practice. The book offers valuable resources to enrich practice, and provokes thought and new ideas about professionalism.

From the Back Cover The subset of skilled workers among whom doctors and lawyers are counted, always known as 'the professions', has always had to adapt to change. But what challenges lie ahead for the concept of 'professionalism' itself, as the market for services becomes ever more complex, the demands for accountability more insistent, external regulation more rigid and limiting, and ethical expectations move inexorably higher? Aimed at professional practitioners, policy makers, researchers and students, *Elaborating Professionalism* introduces new empirical and theoretical work to the conceptual arena that will provoke fresh thinking about professionalism. Viewed in the context of the fundamental economic and social changes convulsing society now and in the years to come, the very idea of the 'professions' is at stake. New sources of inspiration, and even an entire new paradigm, may be needed if professionalism is to remain either a viable or desirable structure for the social organization of work. Included in the volume are empirical studies analyzing problematic situations facing professionals. Drawn from the UK, South Africa, Australia and the USA, these dilemmas have serious implications for the status of and public trust in professionalism and professional education alike. As well as these case studies, a number of theoretical papers included in the book explore concepts of specificity and hybridism, and point to the 'illimitability' and plasticity of professionalism. Key methodological issues regarding the professions are opened up for debate, even as concerns about the ethics of professional practice are raised. A rich resource for practitioners and students alike, the chapters draw on disciplines as varied as philosophy and organizational theory, yet do not require of the reader specialist technical knowledge.