



Work and Integrity: The Crisis and Promise of Professionalism in America

By William M. Sullivan



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Work and Integrity is a timely resource that examines the crisis as well as the promise of professionalism in contemporary society. This vital book argues for the importance of a new civic professionalism that reflects the ideals of democracy and public service in our ever more complex economic environment. A publication of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, *Work and Integrity* explores the most current thinking on the various (and often conflicting) ways in which the concept of professional work is understood. Using examples from the United States and Europe, the author describes how the professions evolved from a limited kind of genteel occupation into one of the most widely emulated and sought-after models of work. The book also explores the rise of complex institutions of industrial and postindustrial society, especially the university and the bureaucratic structures of business, government, health care, and education.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1470062 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Jossey-Bass
- Published on: 2004-11-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x 1.09" w x 6.24" l, 1.23 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Sullivan examines the historical role of professionals in American society, pointing out that the professions have been affected and changed by new work patterns. He argues that, given increasing global interdependence coupled with emerging information technology, professionals in the public and private sector must re-examine their responsibility to larger society. Reinventing professionalism as a civic art is a central theme of the book. Thus, integrity in professional work includes the social dimensions of caring for people and purposes and making commitments to the social good. This is a well-documented scholarly treatise, more theoretical than applied. Highly recommended for academic libraries.

Jane M. Kathman, *Coll. of St. Benedict Lib., St. Joseph, Minn.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Sullivan is a professor at LaSalle University and has previously coauthored thoughtful works such as *The Good Society* (1991), which analyzes our social institutions, and *Habits of the Heart* (1985), which considers individualism and commitment. Here he reflects on the role of professionals and the idea of professionalism in today's society. He traces the rise of professionalism and considers what it means to be a professional. He also muses over whether the decline in professional ethics and standards is the cause or the result of a general social malaise; consequently, Sullivan issues a call for those in the professions to return to the values that originally defined professionalism. *David Rouse*

Review

"For generations the professions have combined expert knowledge with public service in a proud sense of calling. Now the market economy threatens to reduce professions, along with every other sector of modern life, to a lowest common denominator. Sullivan's book offers understanding and hope to professionals seeking to recover their true calling."

--Robert N. Bellah, professor of sociology, emeritus, University of California at Berkeley and coauthor, *Habits of the Heart* and *The Good Society*

"Writing in the tradition of social critics as distinctive as Emile Durkheim, William Morris, and John Dewey, and drawing on recent research on the mastery of complex bodies of knowledge and traditions of practice in professional education, William Sullivan in *Work and Integrity* has given us a indispensable interpretation of the meaning of work for our time."

--Bruce Jennings, senior research scholar, The Hastings Center

"The mission of professional training is typically understood as developing expertise. In *Work and Integrity*, William Sullivan persuasively shows that those who educate the next generation of professionals should also be nurturing an ethic of 'civic professionalism,' an understanding that the professions have a vital public responsibility. This is valuable, eye-opening reading for anyone who teaches—or depends on the professionalism of—professionals."

--David L. Kirp, professor, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley

"*Work and Integrity* provides an invaluable lens for understanding the role of professions in American society. By placing the contemporary challenges of professionals in broader historical and social context, William Sullivan offers a highly insightful analysis of how best to promote their highest ethical aspirations."

--Deborah Rhode, Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law, Stanford University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Jakubowski:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled Work and Integrity: The Crisis and Promise of Professionalism in America? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have other opinion?

Clare Lucas:

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Kent Ibarra:

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