

## Panel 2: Public professionalism

**Chaired by: Prof. dr. Mirko Noordegraaf (Utrecht University) and Prof. dr. Bram Steijn (Erasmus University Rotterdam)**

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In the past few years, the Colloquium Professionals under pressure focused on public professionals (medical doctors, judges, policemen, welfare workers, etc.) and studied their contexts, loyalties and behaviors. This led to lively debates, a special issue of *Bestuurskunde*, sessions and panels at international conferences (e.g. IRSPM Bern 2010), and an upcoming book, *Professionals under pressure*. From now on, we refocus the colloquium, and will study new themes that relate to changing forms of public professionalism.

There are good reasons to do so: aside from professionals as such, we see many new forms of professional acts, work forms, organizations and connections:

- Professionals work together in multi-professional settings;
- professionals become part of networks that transgress organizational boundaries;
- there are new professionals, such as nurse practitioners and paralegals, working in-between professional fields;
- service providers as such become professional, like professional schools;
- HRM policies are changing, and this includes new ideas about career lines and professional training and schooling;
- professional schooling might be changing educational philosophies and curricula (and socialization);
- politicians and policy-makers enhance their policy professionalism (in the light of implementation practices);
- and so on.

Although some of these trends are clear, together they create a bewildering array of changes, which not only generate practical challenges – it also creates theoretical puzzles, relating to the changing nature of professionalism as such. This NIG working conference panel 2011 welcomed papers that discuss aspects of (changing) public professionalism. We discussed both empirical and theoretical contributions.