

**8th Conference of the European Sociological Association
"Conflict, Citizenship and Civic Society", Glasgow, 3-7 Sept 2007**

**Professions and Civic Society in Transition:
Conflict, Strategy and Dynamics**

**Call for Papers
RN Sociology of Professions**

European societies are in a process of rapid transformation with new areas of conflict arising from trans-national policies, economic problems and 'rationalisation' of welfare states and new demands on citizenship, diversity and equality. The complex political, social and cultural transformations are closely linked to the role of professions in changing societies. Interest-driven strategies of the professions and the power of professionalism are a matter of public concern and conflict. At the same time, professional services and self-regulatory bodies are important sources of buffering social conflict and assuring trust in welfare governance; even across countries professionalism has the capacity to govern individuals and occupations 'at a distance'. However, the professions not only shape the transformations of civic society, they are themselves in a process of transition. Changing gender arrangements, calls for flexibility and mobility and new demands on the creation of legitimate knowledge as well as changing modes of citizenship and demands of the service users enhance ongoing dynamics in the professions. We invite papers that deal with these issues either in a single occupational group or country or in comparative perspective, particularly related to the following topics:

- Professions after Bologna: changing frameworks of professional regulation and education
- The gendered order of professions revisited; joint session with RN "Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State"
- Rationalisation in the public service sector: changing professionalism, work and identity
- Knowledge, power and professionalism in the era of experts and information
- Professions, public trust and public interest
- Changing governance and professional development in healthcare; joint session with RN "Sociology of Health and Illness"
- The professions as international players: networks of power and diversity management

Deadline for submitting an abstract is 28 February 2007. Please submit your abstract via an online form that is provided at the conference website (<http://www.esa8thconference.com>) and, in addition, to the following address:

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