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# The System of Professions: An Essay on the Division of Expert Labor (Institutions)

By Andrew Abbott



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In *The System of Professions* Andrew Abbott explores central questions about the role of professions in modern life: Why should there be occupational groups controlling expert knowledge? Where and why did groups such as law and medicine achieve their power? Will professionalism spread throughout the occupational world? While most inquiries in this field study one profession at a time, Abbott here considers the system of professions as a whole. Through comparative and historical study of the professions in nineteenth- and twentieth-century England, France, and America, Abbott builds a general theory of how and why professionals evolve.



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About the Author

**Andrew Abbott** is the Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. For fifteen years, he was editor of the *American Journal of Sociology*.

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