



# Professions and the Public Interest: Medical Power, Altruism and Alternative Medicine

*Mike Saks*

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## **Professions and the Public Interest: Medical Power, Altruism and Alternative Medicine** Mike Saks

The importance and influence of professions in public life has grown increasingly over the twentieth century but the question of whether they subordinate their own self-interests to the public interest has yet to be adequately researched within a major sociological perspective. In *Professions and the Public Interest* Mike Saks develops a theoretical and methodological framework for assessing professional groups in Western society. The empirical applicability of this framework is demonstrated with particular reference to a novel case study of the response of the medical profession to acupuncture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

*Professions and the Public Interest* will be of great interest to all lecturers and students of social policy, sociology, and medical sociology as well as to professional groups and their members.

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