

# Modern Professional Practice and its Future

Never Stand Still

Law

This conference explores the future of professional practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This includes professional practice in large firms, the tension between high remuneration and professional ethics, globalisation and professional norms, models of regulation and most transformative of all, digitisation of professional services. The conference showcases the research of a team combining academics from leading Australian and overseas universities and professionals from the Professional Standards Council. The researchers have taken topics central to the understanding of modern professional practice and combined academic research with a strong practical emphasis. This is seen in the combined presentations of researchers and practicing professionals invited to comment on the research presented. Where possible the presenters identify practical recommendations on the topic of discussion. A range of professional settings from law through accounting and finance to the built environment and occupations involving technology are considered. The conference is for professional associations, practicing professionals and aspiring professionals who wish to be ready for the changes that the scale of practice, globalisation and the exponential growth of digital systems is already bringing to the professions.

**Date:**

Thursday, 3 March 2016  
8.30am to 3.15pm

**Venue:**

Allens, Level 28, Deutsche Bank Place  
126 Phillip street (corner Hunter &  
Phillip streets)  
Sydney, NSW 2000

This conference is free of charge. To attend please register by email to [n.vigliotta@unsw.edu.au](mailto:n.vigliotta@unsw.edu.au). Please include your organisation, and contact details.

**Program: Modern Professional Practice and its Future  
3 March 2016**

**8.30am: Registration**

**8.45am: Welcome**

**SESSION I: INVENTING THE FUTURE**

**9-10.30am Inventing the Future: Professions and Digitally Enabled Work**

The presenters in this session argue that the best way to be prepared for the future is to help invent it, and be ready for change before it arrives. Accordingly, the arguments here address the effects (which are contested) of the growth of technology, its increasing capability and pervasiveness and what this means for professional standards and services. Are there limits to digitally enabled professional work? If the reason for championing digitisation is consumer access to professional services, are the consequences for professional business models and the returns to professional labour sufficient to maintain competent and ethical professional practice?

*Author and presenter: Richard Susskind*

*Panel commentators: Graham Greenleaf, Lyria Bennett-Moses and Deen Sanders*

**10.30 am MORNING TEA**

**SESSION II: REGULATING FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**10.50am Professional indemnity insurance: compensating consumers and regulating professionals?**

This project considers the role of professional indemnity insurance (PII) in providing internal and external controls on professional behaviour. Does PII act as part of the governance of professions, raise professional standards as well as providing protection to consumers?

*Authors: John Morgan, Pamela Hanrahan*

*Panel Commentators: Stephen Durkin, Andrew Lumsden*

**11.30            What is the Point of a National Exam? University Training and Life-long Learning in the Professions**

Professionals responding to the introduction of a National Exam need to understand how different elements in professional integrity systems (of which education is one) can support, compete with, or degrade each other. Understanding the precise function of a National Exam is crucial in relation to other factors, such as university education and life-long-learning that fits around but resists reduction to a National Exam. This is important to the branding of professional organizations.

*Authors: Charles Sampford and Hugh Breakey  
Panel Commentators: Sharon Winocur and Simon Hann*

**12.15pm        LUNCH**

**SESSION III: MODELS OF PROFESSION FOR THE FUTURE?**

**1pm             Mapping differences in professional models and professional practice across the globe**

This session discusses how professionals might be regulated in the future in Australia. Some of the contemporary Australian regulatory models are compared with approaches adopted in overseas jurisdictions. In particular, are there specific strategies that operate overseas that should be considered by the Professional Standards Councils here in Australia?

*Authors: Alex Roberts and John Chellew  
Panel Commentators: Martin Fletcher and Deen Sanders*

**1.45pm        The Promise of Professionalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This session considers the contemporary context of professional practice. Against the background of the earlier papers, it reminds us of traditional professional norms and ethical practice and wider public interest values of profession. The paper analyses how these traditional settings are thriving when challenged by the goals of professional practice in large firms and corporations with a managerial ethos. It also considers the implications of governmental regulation of professions and the consumer interest for traditional professional self-regulation. In conducting this review the paper opens discussion of responses being found to the challenges of modern profession including those raised in earlier papers.

*Authors: Justine Rogers, Dimity Kingsford Smith, Thomas Clarke & John Chellew  
Panel Commentators: Charles Sampford and Justin O'Brien*

**2.30 –  
2.40pm        Conference Close**

## Biographies:

### Session I:

<b>Author</b>	<a href="#">Richard Susskind</a>		
<b>Panellists</b>	<a href="#">Graham Greenleaf</a>	<a href="#">Lyria Bennet-Moses</a>	<a href="#">Deen Sanders</a>

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### Session II:

<b>1 Authors</b>	<a href="#">John Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Pamela Hanrahan</a>
<b>Panellists</b>	<a href="#">Stephen Durkin</a>	<a href="#">Andrew Lumsden</a>
<b>2 Authors</b>	<a href="#">Charles Sampford</a>	<a href="#">Hugh Breakey</a>
<b>Panellists</b>	Sharon Winocur*	<a href="#">Simon Hann</a>

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### Session III:

<b>1 Authors</b>	Alex Roberts*	<a href="#">John Chellew</a>
<b>Panellists</b>	<a href="#">Martin Fletcher</a>	<a href="#">Deen Sanders</a>
<b>2 Authors</b>	<a href="#">Justine Rogers</a>	<a href="#">Dimity Kingsford Smith</a>
	<a href="#">Thomas Clarke</a>	<a href="#">John Chellew</a>
<b>Panellists</b>	<a href="#">Charles Sampford</a>	<a href="#">Justin O'Brien</a>

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#### \* Alex Roberts

Alex Roberts is currently the research officer at the PSA. She conducts a range of research on regulation, professionals, and professionalisation, including the PSA's current white paper series on professionalisation in Australia's services economy. Alex has a PhD from the University of Sydney, and has previously worked in research roles at the Office of Environment and Heritage, and Sydney University Law School.

#### \* Dr. Sharon Winocur

Dr Sharon Winocur is Executive Director of the Business Higher Education Roundtable (B/HERT). She joined B/HERT in August 2008 after previously having held senior executive positions in the Victorian and Queensland Public Service following a successful university career as both an academic and an administrator.