Professional Autonomy: An Annotated Bibliography of Monographs[1]

By Anna Bullen, Eric Boudreau, and Trevor Coffrin
For Chris MacDonald, PhD

This bibliography summarizes key points related to the topic of professional autonomy made in each of the following book-length treatments of the more general topic of professional ethics.

Bayles, Michael D. *Professional Ethics*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1981.

> Bayles' general view of professional autonomy seems to be that professionals are autonomous insofar as they can make independent judgments about their work. The institutions that professionals typically work for challenge professional autonomy, but most professional retain some degree of autonomy in the workplace due to the fact that judgment calls are often required. In chapter seven, Bayles goes through three traditional arguments for the justification of professional autonomy, and rejects them all. This is done within the context of wanting to ensure that professionals comply with ethical norms**.** Later editions of this book have dropped this material.

Davis, Michael. *Thinking Like an Engineer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

> In chapter ten Davis claims that as it stands right now, we only have a concept of personal autonomy as it applies to the workplace, not professional autonomy. He identifies two senses of professional autonomy: organizational autonomy, and individual autonomy. Davis lays out three criteria for an adequate concept of individual professional autonomy: it must explain the relationship between personal and professional autonomy, it must account for why individual professional autonomy is considered empirical, and finally, it must suggest a method of testing the empirical content of claims about professional autonomy. Once Davis has given these criteria, he attempts to come up with a conception of professional autonomy. In doing this, he also explains how being an employee can be consistent with professional autonomy.

Freidson, Eliot. *Professions of Medicine: A Study of the Sociology of Applied Knowledge*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1975.

> Freidson claims that the government grants the medical profession a certain amount of autonomy, and that professionals are only as autonomous as their government will allow them to be. In chapter sixteen he argues that, for the profession of medicine, its autonomy does not extend to regulating itself or to deciding the application of its expertise.

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Freidson, Eliot. *Professionalism Reborn: Theory, Prophecy and Policy*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994.

The notion of autonomy is discussed briefly in this book, from a practical point of view rather than a theoretical one. In chapter five, Freidson discusses possible ways for professional occupations to gain or increase their autonomy. Also, autonomy as control over one's work is a key aspect of the model of professionalism that Freidson offers in chapter nine.

Koehn, Daryl. *The Ground of Professional Ethics*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Koehn's main objective in this book is to foster trust for professionals by showing that they are morally deserving of that trust. Koehn is attempting to find grounds for professionals' authority, thereby showing the legitimacy of it. As such, her work does not touch on professional autonomy, because she is not looking at professional rights or professional ethics. Professional autonomy is not mentioned in the bibliography.

Martin, Mike W. and Roland Schinzinger. *Ethics in Engineering*. United States: McGraw-Hill, 1989.

This book discusses moral autonomy, which is the ability to make rational decisions on ethical issues based on moral concern, rather than professional autonomy. It seems that moral autonomy is a skill that one can learn, and a right that an employer might interfere with. There is discussion in Chapter one of the conflicts between moral autonomy and obeying authority. While professionals have the right to moral autonomy, it seems that moral autonomy is not specific to professionals, but rather to all people.

Martin, Mike. *Meaningful Work: Rethinking Professional Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Most of the discussions of autonomy found in this book seem to focus on how autonomy works with or infringes upon personal values and ideals. There is some talk of client and student autonomy (as opposed to professional autonomy), and in chapter eight, there is a discussion of the schism between the professional's autonomy, and the manager's authority.