Management has not generally been considered a profession. Managers are usually distinguished from professionals, and managerialism from professionalism. Although meanings and practices vary according to context, any clear separation is less tenable today. In fact, management includes various occupational or expert groups, including both traditional and ‘corporate’ professions, such as accounting, HR, procurement and project management (Muzio et al., 2011). In addition, management logics, tools and language pervade the practice and organization of all occupations, including established professions such as law or medicine. More broadly, organizations and economic systems need to be understood through the agency of occupational groups, each striving for managerial and expert-based authority and jurisdictional control (e.g. Shenhav, 1999).

Whilst occupational jurisdictions have always been subject to contestation (Abbott, 1988), professional expertise is increasingly being challenged and demystified (Leicht, 2015; Crouch, 2016), as professionalism is complemented by alternative logics such as managerialism, entrepreneurship and populism as well as post-modern thinking. As new areas of management expertise emerge and gain influence (e.g. Reed, 1996; Risi and Wickert, 2017), professional and occupational boundaries as well as inter-occupational relationships are also likely to be challenged and redefined within the context of organizations and beyond (Anteby et al., 2016; Seabrooke and Tsingou, 2015).

This special issue answers to a need to develop a better understanding of the complexities and consequences related to inter- and intra-professional and occupational relationships, competition, conflict and boundary work within organizations as well as in the broader political economy. The central focus of this special issue is on interactions between traditional professions (within the context of a PSF, business organization or broader society), ‘corporate’ professions, and other professionalizing occupations within management. First, such a focus allows us to further our understanding of the mechanisms through which new management occupations and professions may become established, develop and interact with each other. Second, it helps to shed more light on how they drive, resist, and blend existing knowledge bases, practices, boundaries and jurisdictions. Third, this focus can help advance our conceptualization of management thinking, and organizational practices more broadly (Heusinkveld et al., 2011). This point also relates to one of the foundational, but sometimes forgotten, issues in organization studies, that is, how management and organization shape (and are shaped by) contemporary society in terms of status and occupational groups (Hinings and Greenwood, 2002).
To address these issues, we invite scholarly papers from a wide range of disciplines and academic perspectives. We welcome contributions grounded in organizational theory, the sociology of the professions, business history, communication studies, political science, strategy, economic geography and anthropology. We also welcome different methodological approaches, including mixed methods and multi-level approaches (e.g. the individual, firm, and field).

We encourage submissions concerning (but not limited to) the following questions:

• How are boundaries between different professions and knowledge-based occupations delineated, contested and repaired within management contexts, and how do they connect to different organizational processes and outcomes?
• What challenges and opportunities does the increasing specialization of management knowledge pose to professional service firms (PSFs) and professional service organizations (PSOs)?
• What are the strategies available to emerging management occupational groups to establish stable jurisdictions, also in transnational spaces and in international governance?
• How do processes of competition and collaboration among different management occupations shape the establishment of new forms of expertise within organizations and throughout society?
• How do the establishment of expertise and jurisdiction compare in management and other fields (e.g. IT, Accounting, Law) and though different sectors and nations?
• How are governance structures and management practices affected by the proliferation and specialization of management occupations and their struggles for influence?
• To what extent is the expertise of occupational groups or professions itself contested? Are we witnessing the end of the expert?

These and similar questions have the prospect of advancing our understanding, not only of occupations, professions, management and expertise, but also of broader debates over conflict, power, elites and organizations.

Submission process and deadline:

Manuscripts should be submitted via the JPO online submission system (http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jpo). The deadline for submission is October 31, 2017. Accepted papers will be published online immediately, and the expected publication date of the Special Issue is early-2019. For inquiries, please contact the special issue editors. For more information about JPO, please see https://jpo.oxfordjournals.org. There will also be an opportunity to discuss and present work at EGOS 2017, Copenhagen, (sub-theme 8, http://bit.ly/2kLAQog).

Quick facts about the Journal of Professions and Organization:

• JPO has been accepted into Thomson Reuter's new Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) pending completion of our SSCI evaluation process.
• JPO has entered the ABDC Journal Quality List at level A.
• See JPO’s new “Editors’ Highlights” at https://academic.oup.com/jpo/pages/editors_highlights
• JPO provides a high quality, constructive, and fast review process (average time to first letter 29 days; 43 days excluding desk decisions).
• See https://academic.oup.com/jpo for more information.