



## Organizing the Accounting Profession: A Theoretical And Historical Examination of The Development of Major Accountancy Bodies in The UK

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### Abstract

The study seeks to examine the topic - Organizing the Profession: A Theoretical and Historical Examination of the Development of the Major Accountancy Bodies in the United Kingdom (UK). In advancing the 'professionalizing' claims, the UK accountancy bodies emphasize that their members have command of practical and theoretical culture, engage in ethical conduct, serve the public interest and act in a socially responsible way. However, such claims are routinely problematized by scandals which highlight the highly partisan role of accounting and accountants and failures of accounting education. Rather than undertaking a radical review of accounting education, the professional bodies seek to rebuild confidence in accounting and their jurisdictions by (re)affirming that accounting education is or will be devoted to producing reflective accountants through educational processes focused on sound education, principles, ethics, professional skepticism, lifelong learning opportunities, distinguishing between private and public interest and serving the public interest. These promises presuppose that students on professional accounting courses are exposed to such values. To advance the debate, this paper examines a number of financial accounting, auditing and management accounting books and finds that beyond a technical and instrumental view of accounting, there is little discussion of theories, principles, ethics, public interest, globalization, scandals or social responsibility to produce socially reflective accountants.

**Keywords:** Scandals, Professional Accountancy, Ethics, Social, Responsibility, Public Interest.