

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784032203321
Autore	Schilderman Hans
Titolo	Religion as a Profession // Hans Schilderman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden; ; Boston : , : BRILL, , 2005
ISBN	1-280-86832-5 9786610868322 1-4294-5344-3 90-474-0780-6 1-4337-0549-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (443 p.)
Collana	Empirical Studies in Theology ; ; 12
Disciplina	253/.2
Soggetti	Clergy Pastoral theology - Catholic Church
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Adapted version of the author's thesis (doctoral)--Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, 1998.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	List of Figures. xi -- Acknowledgments. xiii -- Introduction. 1 -- Chapter One Design -- 1.1 Research problem. 13 -- 1.1.1 Professionalisation and theology of ministry. 13 -- 1.1.2 Pastoral theology of ministry. 21 -- 1.1.3 Clarification of concepts. 24 -- 1.1.4 Aim. 30 -- 1.1.5 Research questions. 33 -- 1.2 Research design. 35 -- 1.2.1 Research procedure. 35 -- 1.2.2 Sampling. 37 -- 1.3 Research population. 38 -- 1.3.1 Characteristics of pastors. 38 -- 1.3.2 Religious characteristics. 40 -- 1.3.3 Professional characteristics. 42 -- 1.3.4 Work situation characteristics. 46 -- 1.3.5 Social location of the professional association. 49 -- 1.4 Structure of the book. 50 -- 1.5 Summary. 52 -- Chapter Two Professionalisation -- 2.1 Work. 53 -- 2.1.1 Characteristics of work. 54 -- 2.1.2 Division of labour. 57 -- 2.1.3 Quality of work. 60 -- 2.1.4 Occupations and work. 62 -- 2.2 Professionalisation. 67 -- 2.2.1 Theories of professionalisation. 67 -- 2.2.2 Choice of a power theory of professionalisation. 70 -- 2.2.3 Premises of professionalisation. 74 -- 2.3 Goals of professionalisation. 82 -- 2.3.1 Professionalisation objectives. 83 -- 2.3.2 Attitudes towards professionalisation objectives. 85 -- 2.3.3 Social location of

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Sommario/riassunto

This volume offers a conceptual and empirical study of the religious profession. It takes as its point of departure professionalisation theory that is discussed and applied to a profession in mainstream religion, in this case Dutch Catholic ministry. The book entails a well-documented empirical study of attitudes of clergy and lay personnel in the Dutch Roman-Catholic Church regarding the pastoral profession. Their attitudes towards church authority, apostolicity, sacramental efficacy, accession to the office, and spiritual role are described extensively. The research clarifies the extent to which these religious attitudes act as a positive or negative motif to engage in policies that are aimed at a professional development of the occupation. The book offers an excellent insight into basic characteristics of a religious profession.
