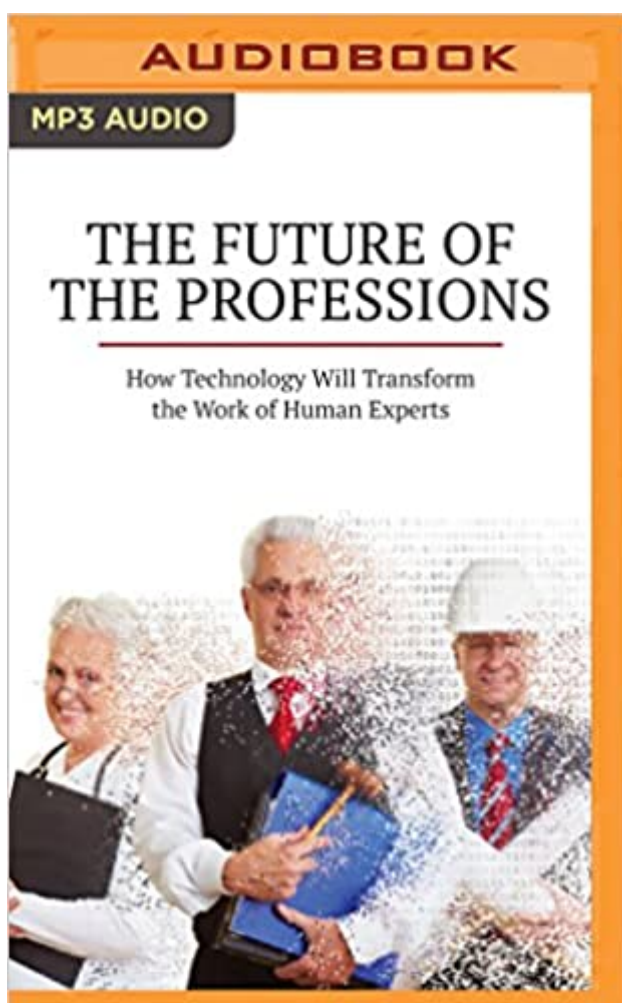


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# The Future Of The Professions: How Technology Will Transform The Work Of Human Experts



## Synopsis

This book predicts the decline of today's professions and describes the people and systems that will replace them. In an Internet society, according to Richard Susskind and Daniel Susskind, we will neither need nor want doctors, teachers, accountants, architects, the clergy, consultants, lawyers, and many others, to work as they did in the 20th century. *The Future of the Professions* explains how "increasingly capable systems" — from telepresence to artificial intelligence — will bring fundamental change in the way that the "practical expertise" of specialists is made available in society. The authors challenge the "grand bargain" — the arrangement that grants various monopolies to today's professionals. They argue that our current professions are antiquated, opaque and no longer affordable, and that the expertise of their best is enjoyed only by a few. In their place, they propose six new models for producing and distributing expertise in society. The book raises important practical and moral questions. In an era when machines can out-perform human beings at most tasks, what are the prospects for employment, who should own and control online expertise, and what tasks should be reserved exclusively for people? Based on the authors' in-depth research of more than ten professions, and illustrated by numerous examples from each, this is the first book to assess and question the relevance of the professions in the 21st century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An act of delicious iconoclasm" -- Prospect Magazine "In *The Future of the Professions*, father-and-son authors Richard and Daniel Susskind do a remorselessly effective job of demolishing the self-deception most people engage in when comparing themselves to machines." -- Financial

Times "The authors are undoubtedly right that the professions will change more in the next quarter-century than they have in the previous three." -- The Economist "The Future of the Professions is a paradox that only a human mind could appreciate: the inevitable death of the professions is presented in an expert, original and witty work by two professionals whose skills (in thinking, writing and consultancy) are unlikely any time soon to be replicated by a machine." -- David Pannick, The Times "Remarkable work" -- Tom Watson, The Guardian "This is a bold book ... The Future of the Professions helps us to recognise the professions' current methods as convoluted, self-serving rituals designed to wrap simple tasks in mystique." -- Giles Wilkes, Prospect "Richard and Daniel Susskind's The Future of the Professions: How Technology Will Transform the Work of Human Experts belongs to a new genre of reflection and prediction. It is no Luddite lament for a world we have lost, but surveys rapid change with insight and optimism." -- Jonathan Clark, Times Literary Supplement "Both a good read and a good starter for strategic planning in professional firms" -- Chris Yapp, Future Tech Blog "I suggest that everyone who considers themselves 'professional' reads this book, especially those who are aged, say, 20-45, who need to secure their role in the new world of work. The authors predict that "our professions will be dismantled incrementally". If they are right, today's lawyers need to prepare for it, and the sooner the better." -- Dan Bindman, Legal Futures "A fascinating and challenging book" -- Medium "The study is exceptionally well informed and important contribution to thinking about the future of professional work" -- Network Review "As the saying is, the future is now and we ignore it at our peril. Please read this book." -- Law Skills "The book is written in a relaxed, flowing and easily-consumable style ... a read of The Future of the Professions is time very well-spent." -- Jeremy Hopkins, Future of Law "Impeccably researched and compelling ... The Future of the Professions is a must read for all professionals and policy makers" -- Law and Courts in an Online World "Impressive new book" -- Edward Fennell, The Times "Perhaps the forthcoming tidal wave of technology set to engulf us all will throw up new opportunities for the legal profession which is probably why just about every lawyer in London, so we are told, has bought a copy of this challenging, provocative, timely and important book. If you care about the future of your profession and wish to add further comment to the raging controversies surrounding it, better get yourself a copy now." -- Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richard Green Chambers "Everyone interested in the future well-being of society must read this thoroughly researched and compelling book--to understand how technology can and will be used to enable the public to do far more for themselves. In reshaping our system of justice so that it can more cost-effectively underpin our democratic society and its prosperity, I have had the benefit of the Susskinds core thesis how to use

technology not simply to enable the legal professions to do better what they now do, but to reshape justice for the benefit of the public." -- Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

"If the Susskinds are right, we are at the start of a social revolution. Technology has begun to transform social class, economic activity, political discourse, working life and the limits of human activity. In *The Future of the Professions* they relentlessly and unyieldingly but also entertainingly and elegantly set about proving their point. I started knowing that their argument was important, I finished convinced that it was right. This is a necessary book. It was necessary that it be written and necessary that you read it." -- Daniel Finkelstein, *The Times*

"I know of no better book for anyone interested in the future of skilled jobs and society. Drawing on an astounding range of sources and the latest research, *The Future of the Professions* offers vital insights into the unprecedented disruption facing all the professions." -- Professor Ian Goldin, Professor of Globalisation and Development and Director of the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford

"In this magisterial survey Richard and Daniel Susskind demolish each profession's faith in its immutable uniqueness. Instead they trace inexorable and universal forces that will drive disintermediation, deconstruction and disruption. Written with scholarly thoroughness, this is an urgent manifesto and practical blueprint for the leaders of every professional firm." -- Philip Evans, Senior Partner & BCG Fellow, The Boston Consulting Group

"This book should be shared and discussed among students and all professionals in all different industries. Recommended." -Choice

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

John Lee has spent 30 years guiding lives and relationships through addiction, recovery, emotional ruin, rage, grief, and desperation, and into new strength, hope, functionality and fulfillment. He wrote the bestseller *The Flying Boy*, as well as twenty other books, and he has been featured on Oprah, 20/20, Barbara Walter's *The View*, CNN, PBS, and NPR. He has been interviewed by Newsweek, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and dozens of other national magazines and radio talk shows. John earned his master's degree at the University of Alabama, where he taught English and American Studies. At the University of Texas, he worked on his doctorate and taught Religious Studies and Humanities at Austin Community College. He is founder and former director of the Austin Men's Center where he ran men's groups and sessions for individuals and couples. Along with poet Robert Bly and others, John became a recognized leader in the Men's Movement and an early pioneer in the field of recovery and addictions. He has keynoted hundreds of clinical conferences around the world. He lives in Austin, Texas.

No one would describe *The Future of the Professions* as a light and frothy read. I am a great fan of author Richard Susskind's previous books and his evolving thoughts about the future of the legal profession - and, in this book, all professions. His son Daniel, who is a lecturer in economics at Oxford University, adds another illuminating perspective. It is best read (I think) in 30-45 minute segments with pauses to digest what you've read and to reflect upon your own thinking. The primary criticism of this book (and its predecessors) is that it represents doom and gloom. In some respects, that is true. The authors do indeed believe that a radical shift is coming and that the unprepared may not fare well if they don't change how they think. The book suggests that we need to cooperate with the machines rather than fight against them (surely a losing battle). As the book notes, machines are becoming increasingly capable. There is an extensive discussion (fascinating) of the second generation of artificial intelligence (AI) which examines the ongoing development of IBM's Watson and its deployment in a host of professions. Is it a certain amount of work to read this book, which tackles a complex subject in great depth? Assuredly. But well worth the effort. The authors take great pain to leaven their research with colorful quotes and statistics from others and to translate the complex subjects into more digestible and sometimes humorous tidbits. Any professional who is worried about the future would be well-advised to read this book thoughtfully.

This book should be read by every marketing person for professional organizations, the world is changing as technology takes us to new places in commerce. The technology will continue to improve and expand, it will be important for professional organizations to recognize the impact on their professions, or be left with empty offices waiting for clients that never arrive.

As an older professional I found this book thrilling and compelling. Perhaps a bit scary at times but overall very stimulating and thought provoking. I recommend it to all professionals and suggest they read with an open mind. Think more about the possibilities that innovation will bring and less being at the end of an age. My only beef with this book is the length. I think the overall argument could just as well been made with about 100 fewer pages.

This book will guide you through thought experiments about the very real possibilities for the professions in the future. No matter the inevitable outcome, the future of the professions will and must change. Most interesting to me is the very real possibility of a Star Trek-esque dismissal of money and pay for work with an eye to self-actualization and doing good deeds and works because

it is the right and noble path. The authors compel you to consider fascinating and thought-provoking potential futures.

Like Nick Bostrom's "Superintelligence" or Ray Kurzweil "The singularity is near", Richard and Daniel Susskind "The future of the professions" is a futuristic approach for mankind and probably the most important lawbook for lawyers on 2016. As a matter of fact, "The future of the professions" is not aggressive for saying the truth, because the truth will always be the truth (and furthermore, people will be disappointed for know the truth). After reading the first 23 pages, I found a core thesis of the proposition "when does this future might happen", additionally to the significant thesis statement of "artificial intelligence need". But to be honest with Richard and Daniel Susskind, and especially with people that may be interested in buy this book, THIS IS HAPPENING. I highly recommend you to buy this book, but most importantly I make an open invitation for debate some ideas through this Grand Bargain that I will call "Great Transformation". Tony Remes. Attorney at Law/ Mexico

Excellent book, helped me a lot to understand how technology is shaping the professions and the job market for experts. I especially liked the the healthcare examples. As a university professor, I see how my profession is changing, this book made me consider some potential development scenarios

Good as far as information, but repeats too much. It could have been written in half the pages. It felt like if he was stretching his article: Tomorrows Lawyers. Nevertheless I extracted some interesting concepts.

Educators should read this before designing any courses or programs for the trades. Susskind provides a sobering forecast of the future, based on a solid assessment of the present and past.

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