Record Nr. UNINA9910453261603321 Autore Fioramonti Lorenzo Titolo How numbers rule the world: the use and abuse of statistics in global politics / / Lorenzo Fioramonti London [England]:,: Zed Books,, 2014 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-78032-271-2 1-78032-268-2 1-78032-269-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (281 p.) Collana **Economic controversies** 281 Disciplina Economics - Statistical methods Soggetti Statistics - Political aspects **Economic indicators** Social indicators International economic relations Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Front cover; Economic Controversies; About the author; Title; Nota di contenuto Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgements; INTRODUCTION The politics of statistics; 1 The power of numbers; Numbers and politics; Trust in numbers; Numbers, markets and democracy; 2 New global rulers: the untameable power of credit rating; Credit rating agencies: from market analysts to oligopolists: Behind the numbers: a shady business: The politics of ratings and the global financial crisis; Ratings and irrationality; 3 Fiddling while the planet burns: the marketization of climate change Environmental scepticism and the rise of cost-benefit analysisClimategate: twisting numbers for the climate; Markets for climate: Conclusion: when numbers become dangerous distractions: 4 Measuring the unmeasurable: the financialization of nature; Measuring the value of nature: statistical evolutions in global governance; figure

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The politics of aid effectiveness: a brief historical overviewThe quest for evidence; The rise of philanthrocapitalism; Numbers strike back home: the politics of impact assessment in the social field; The marketization of 'doing good'; CONCLUSION Rethinking numbers, rethinking governance; In defence of numbers; Beyond good and bad numbers; Governance, numbers and the public sphere; What now? Governance of complexity; Notes; Bibliography; Index; Back cover

Sommario/riassunto

In this eye-opening book, Lorenzo Fioramonti provides a much-needed critique of the current 'data fever', showing both the direct consequences and indirect implications of the increasing power of numbers. At the same time, it investigates innovative attempts to resist the invasion of mainstream statistics by providing alternative measurements or rejecting quantification altogether. An innovative and timely expose of the politics, power and contestation of numbers in everyday life.