Record Nr. UNINA9910822743003321 Autore Fioramonti Lorenzo Titolo How numbers rule the world: the use and abuse of statistics in global politics / / Lorenzo Fioramonti Pubbl/distr/stampa London, England:,: Zed Books,, 2014 [London, England]:,: Bloomsbury Publishing,, 2021 **ISBN** 1-350-22064-7 1-78032-271-2 1-78032-268-2 1-78032-269-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (281 p.) Collana **Economic Controversies** Disciplina 320.014 Soggetti Political statistics **Economic indicators** Social indicators Government information Statistics - Social aspects Communication in politics Social research & statistics Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Front cover; Economic Controversies; About the author; Title; 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

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Measuring the unmeasurable: the financialization of nature; Measuring the value of nature: statistical evolutions in global governance; figure 4.1 Conceptualizing nature's contribution to the economy; Putting a price on ecosystems; The financialization of nature; Conclusion: Nature Inc.; 5 Numbers for good? The quest for aid effectiveness and social impact.

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.