

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910838302903321
Autore	Alexius Susanna <1976->
Titolo	Obsessive measurement disorder or pragmatic bureaucracy? : coping with uncertainty in development aid relations // Susanna Alexius (Stockholm Center for Organizational Research (Score), Sweden), Janet Vahamaki (Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden)
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bingley, U.K. : , : Emerald Publishing Limited, , 2024 ©2024
ISBN	9781801173742 1801173745
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (204 pages)
Disciplina	658
Soggetti	Bureaucracy Management Business & Economics - Management Management and management techniques
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Coping with uncertainty in development aid relations -- Chapter 2. Complexities, uncertainties and responses -- Chapter 3. Recipients are responsible donors too: On plural actorhood and role-switching -- Chapter 4. Practices of approximation: Simplifying the complex and controlling the future -- Chapter 5. In proper organization we trust: On extrapolation from proper organization proxies -- Chapter 6. Certainty for sale? - A historic expose on the role of external experts in development aid 1960s-2020s -- Chapter 7. Multivocal brokering: Translating and decoupling for results -- Chapter 8. Pragmatic bureaucracy - An antidote to obsessive measurement disorder?
Sommario/riassunto	The ebook edition of this title is Open Access and freely available to read online. Complex coordination across time, space, and cultures involves a great deal of uncertainty. This uncertainty may be accepted and handled with judgment and pragmatism, but more often in contemporary modern society, it is treated as a technical problem to be

'solved'. This is a book about the paradoxical implications of the quest for certainty in interorganizational relations in the complex field of development aid. Authors Alexius and Vahamaki scrutinize questions related to the concept Obsessive Measurement Disorder, i.e. what causes an increase in control mechanisms, and how and when can this prove counterproductive? They further investigate the question on why performance management - and measurement requirements seem in some instances to hinder, and in others to support the implementation of aid projects and programs. Drawing on 80 original interviews with aid bureaucrats working at different levels and in different organizations, including public agencies, companies, non-government organisations, and universities all involved in development aid projects financed fully, or in part, by the Swedish taxpayer, they identify coping mechanisms and responses that may help to prevent the extremes of obsessive measurement disorder, and foster instead pragmatic, constructive organizing and learning that benefits not only aid organizations and their employees, but also - and more fundamentally - the societies in need.
