



Barbara Befani

Barbara Befani is an Evaluation Researcher with a MSc in Social Statistics and a (European) PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies. Since discussing her PhD thesis in Evaluation Methodology, she has gained eight years of experience in designing / conducting evaluation research in international development and EU Cohesion Policy.

She is co-author of the Stern et al. paper "[Broadening the Range of Designs and Methods for Impact Evaluations](#)" (PDF) and co-editor of a methodological compendium on the evaluation of effects of EU Cohesion Policy. She has used and taught about innovative methods such as QCA in assignments for international organizations and agencies (DFID, UNDP, NORAD, World Bank, GEF).

Her main research interest is rigorous thinking in impact evaluation, including definitions of success, causal inference strategies and criteria to mix designs, methods and data collection techniques. She has published on theory-based evaluation approaches, the evaluation-specific logic and small-n methods. She is currently the lead editor of two special journal issues (the IDS Bulletin) on rethinking impact evaluation, one of which is focused on complexity and systems thinking.

Barbara is an elected Board Member of the European Evaluation Society (2012-2015) and a member of INTEVAL (International Research Group on Policy and Program Evaluation).

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