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Measuring the value and impact of culture: why and how? A literature review of academic and practical works

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ABSTRACT

The article looks into recent academic works, practical projects, and research reports related to the evaluation of cultural values and the assessment of cultural impact. The key questions asked are: why is the measurement of the value and impact of art and culture an issue? What is the rationale for measuring the value and impact of culture? And by what methods can this be done? Can cultural theorists and practitioners propose more convincing methods to measure the value of culture empirically and numerically? Or are there other, non-economic methods that can easily be understood by economists, social scientists, policymakers, and the general public? Underlying these questions are methodological debates regarding the measurement of cultural value across the disciplines of the social sciences and the humanities. Recent research and policy studies seem to conform in pointing to the need for an overall re-evaluation of culture in organizational management, administration, and public policymaking.

KEY WORDS

Cultural values, cultural impact assessment, cultural evaluation, measurement of culture

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