

**In conversation with Michael Woolcock on aid effectiveness, sentiments and
evaluation**

Gruppo Tematico Valutare nella Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

[Venerdì 5 maggio 2023 – Ore 16:30 – 18:30](#)

[Piattaforma Zoom](#)

In this talk Michael Woolcock will discuss Valeria Saggiomo's research results on the role of "sentiment" in aid effectiveness at the project level and will put them in the context of potential development project evaluation practices by donor institutions.

Much of the literature on aid effectiveness at the project level explains low achievements as a consequence of poor planning and low implementation capacity. Research on diaspora development practices in Somalia, however, demonstrate that many of their poorly planned and under-resourced micro projects succeed in producing a positive impact on the lives of people in poor countries. According to Saggiomo (2016, 2021), three factors explain these projects' success: a strong motivational drive (sentiment), the capacity to involve other people in the project (sharing) and a good level of know-how (capacity) by development actors. While capacity building is already an area of investment by donors, sentiments and sharing, that are part of the social capital conceptual framework, regrettably are not yet embedded in development policies and practices. After explaining why does embedding "sentiments" in evaluation matter, the debate will address how a "sentimental evaluation" would look like.

Coordina: Valeria Saggiomo (Università L'Orientale di Napoli)

Intervengono: Michael Woolcock (Lead Social Scientist with the World Bank's Development Research Group and Professor at Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University) Valeria Saggiomo (Research Fellow at the Centre for International Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University and Lecturer in International Development Cooperation at the University L'Orientale of Naples, Italy)