

Radical Statistics Conference 2007

Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Saturday 24 February

Speaker programme

Registration and discussion in informal groups from 9.30, to start at 10.15

Morning session

1. **Ray Thomas**, *Open University*

The Independence of Official Statistics: developments in the last twelve months

2. **Alison Macfarlane**, *City University*

What's happening to official statistics in practice?

3. **Daniel Smith**, *health researcher*

Independent regulators, the Department of Health and data collection

4. **Roy Carr-Hill**, *Centre for Health Economics, University of York and Institute of Education, University of London*

Development and use of performance indicators in Africa and Asia

Examples from India, Indonesia, Kenya and Uganda with reference to UK aid policy

5. **Jamie Goodwin-White**, *University of Southampton*; and **Gill Green**, *Audit Commission*

Demographic statistics and the example of migrant workers

Lunch

Afternoon session

6. **Petra M Boynton**, *University College London*

Misuse of surveys in PR campaigns

Petra is concerned at the misuse of surveys in PR campaigns and the resulting overload of 'data' on the public (which frequently contradicts existing health or other information). During the workshop she will highlight some recent data from PR surveys, explain how such surveys operate and discuss how this source of public statistics could be challenged or tackled.

7. **Diana Kornbrot**, *University of Hertfordshire*

'Quality'? indicators from combining Likert items and other measures from surveys
Single quality indicators are often derived from weighted sums of survey items, including ordinal Likert items. It is widely believed that the weights and combining procedures don't make much difference to the final rankings or scores. This presentation challenges this assumption using examples from the National Student Survey of UK higher education and country development indices.

8. --- **Radical Statistics Group Annual General Meeting** --- New members welcome.

9. **Aubrey Blumsohn**, *formerly University of Sheffield*

Can I have my data? Access to data and control of the pharmaceutical scientific literature
Aubrey will discuss a personal statistical data management challenge in regard to data analysis under contract.

Booking form available at <http://www.radstats.org.uk/conf2007/bookingform.pdf>

Enquiries to admin@radstats.org.uk