

**Radical Statistics**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Priory Centre, York**  
**24 February, 2013**

**Minutes**

Members present: Jake Ansell, John Bibby, David Byrne, Roy Carr-Hill, Russell Ecob, Jeff Evans, Al Franco, Bob Lavers, Alastair Greig, Liz Hind, Bob Lavers, Alison Macfarlane, Robin Rice, Janet Shapiro, Humphrey Southall. Alistair Cairns minutes.

Welcome from Chair David Lamb

1. Apologies: Joan Corbett, Bob Saunders, Paul Marchant, Lee Williamson.
2. Minutes of 2012 AGM accepted. Circulated in meeting.
3. Radical Statistics Journal – Editor’s report and recommendations discussed [appended]. Funding approved for expenses to meet, outside a conference, subject to Treasurer and Troika approval on amounts. Further discussion indicates preference for remaining a non-peer reviewed journal. Editors asked to discuss, if required. Editors thanked for excellent work.
4. Troika report [appended]. The Troika and AC have met frequently via telecom and has addressed matters arising capably. RadStats has joined GetStats and International Year of Statistics. Troika members thanked.
5. Treasurer’s report [appended]. Finances, generally, are stable. There is income above expenses as well as reserves. RadStats has switched bank with lower charges. JS will approach Geoffrey Rendle and one of the Troika for another two signatories (four total, two required to sign). Troika could look at promotion, particularly within the low income category. Geoffrey R thanked for auditing books. Janet thanked.
6. Conference organiser’s report. John, Shirley and others thanked for an excellent conference. Motion passes to offer up to £50 to Rad Cab as support for their loss. JB proposes a £100 maximum contribution to be offered for conference organiser toward the many small expenses. Motion passes with addition that this is offered retroactively to Jay Ginn, and to John himself. JE says the conference organiser must be sure to have a local organising group.

7. 2014 conference – Venue, organising team, theme all need to be developed. No one from ‘the South’ has come forward, despite the tradition and desirability of having conferences in the British Library. JS and others suggest non-London location is acceptable, even desirable. Troika to discuss further. RCH to explore a Manchester venue for 2014. AC to re-contact British Library. HS to consider a London based conference in 2015.
8. Essay competition report (verbally by AC, from Lee Williamson). Various proposals authorising Lee to offer prizes and to organise an assistant, who would be paid to do promotion, outreach etc, approved. Lee thanked.
9. List report verbally issued by AM. All is reported to be lively and useful. Alison thanked.
10. Website report [appended]. Website has migrated to a Word Press site. RR reports a much improved interface and usability. Contact Robin for contributions to the blog particularly. Social media is very successful. 1000<sup>th</sup> follower on Twitter, who will receive a gratis one year membership. Robin thanked.
11. Membership report [appended]. JB and DB to correspond with AC develop a member survey to get a fuller picture of membership. Alistair thanked.
12. Future activities of Radical Statistics: JE has plans ask for collaborators (1) to re-write the Education Group brochure, *Reading between the Numbers* (1982) and (2) to seek access to, and to perform analysis of, data from the PIAAC international survey of adult skills.
13. AOB  
Proposal to pay conference video production approved. Troika will decide on future commitments

Meeting closed.

# Editor's Report

Radical Statistics AGM, York, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013

*[Apologies for missing the AGM. I had planned to be there, but now have to be in London for work. I am happy to answer any questions by email ([Rachel.cohen.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.cohen.1@city.ac.uk)) or by phone.]*

I took over as Radical Statistics editor, with Larry Brownstein and Alistair Greig, at the last AGM. Since then we have published three issues of Radical Statistics. A special Issue *Riotstats*, which Alistair 'guest edited' an issue largely comprising conference papers from the 2012 conference and the first issue of 2013. The issues have covered a range of topics and contributed to the Radical Statistics tradition of both exposing and analysing socially important statistics and, especially the most recent edition, discussing the politics of their creation and dissemination. We have published a couple of reviews, and several authors have now offered to review books for future editions, which Larry has in hand. We had intended to, but have not yet rekindled and developed the 'news' section.

There have been several issues that I have found quite challenging this year. These are discussed below.

1. **Proof-reading.** This has just been a problem just because it is so time-consuming and important. It has been especially difficult when articles are in specialist fields. Our thanks to people who have reviewed/read articles over the last year. In the year ahead we would really appreciate offers from anyone who would be willing to proof read articles. Also, a reminder that proof reading should include both reading for grammar and for coherence (e.g. readability/intelligibility of figures and tables/accessibility/clarity of argument).  
***Request:** Can people who are willing to proof read please provide their names, contact details and any topic speciality on the form at the end.*
2. **Division of responsibility.** In taking over, without previously being involved in the production of Radical Statistics it has been unclear (to me at least) the extent to which I should make decisions (and which decisions) by myself or consult with Alistair and Larry or come back to the Troika. Similarly since we're both an editorial team but I also seem to be taking a lead, it wasn't clear to me who would do/help with what. This problem was perhaps especially acute because Alistair and I hadn't met and Larry and I only briefly talked at the 2012 conference. As none of this was really thrashed out it's been difficult to develop a working relationship (partly also because one or more of us is often busy/away/unavailable).  
***Proposal:** That the editorial team meets within a month of the AGM to agree a plan for the year including deadlines and establish a division of responsibility and set of working arrangements and processes.*
3. **Quality/Politics.** To what extent should we be screening for quality and, perhaps, 'radicalness'? There was one article published this year that I thought was politically conservative (so not 'radical'); there was one other which I had concerns about in relation to clarity/evidence/claims (in the latter case the author was alerted to the problems by me and by the comments of the person who had read/reviewed the article but these were not addressed after several revisions). These questions seem especially difficult to manage where the article is for a special issue or conference issue, because authors have been invited to participate.  
***Request:** Can some guidance on this be given by the AGM.*

4. **'Peer reviewed'**. I would like some advice about what to do with peer reviewed articles. Where an article is peer reviewed and receives quite extensive criticisms from one or more 'reviewer' (which in another context would be sufficient to 'reject' the article) should we still publish it (with revisions/as a regular, not 'peer reviewed' piece)? My feeling is that if we can't reject peer reviewed articles we shouldn't offer to peer review, especially since the topics covered are quite diverse and I do not have sufficient knowledge of all fields nor reviewers available who can go through multiple revisions in detail. On the other hand, since we are quite open with regard to other articles it seems silly to totally reject something that may well be as intellectually rigorous/novel as many other items in the journal.

***Proposal:** I suggest that either a or b are adopted: a) we no longer say that we will 'peer review' articles; b) we agree that where reviewers suggest that a peer-review article should be rejected we offer authors the opportunity to publish it as a regular (not peer reviewed) article. My inclination would be to go for (a) since it's the clearest, but I'm happy to go with (b) if others' prefer this option. Similarly, an alternative proposal would also be welcome.*

5. **Timing – conference issues.** Because there was a special issue planned and then a conference issue, this had a big impact on future issues and the speed with which we published more topical pieces. This backlog also meant that I did not do much to seek out or commission people to write papers. This was made worse because, while some conference articles came in quickly others took much longer (and similarly some people who agreed to read/review these did so quickly and others more slowly) – although some of the delays were my fault.

***Proposal:** That we do not have a 'conference issue' but publish conference articles as they come in, along with other articles (although obviously clustering those with a direct relationship to one another). This would give the editors more flexibility, while still allowing for a special issue at one point within the year.*

6. **Special Issue:** I would like to organise a special issue (or part-issue) on working lives (my substantive research interest). If that is okay with others, I will go ahead with this. If others have other 'special issues' or part-issues they'd like to develop they should get in touch.
7. **News:** I would like to develop the news section (so that there are more substantial stories here). It may be that Alistair takes on organising this – hopefully we can work this out. If people have 'news' stories that they'd like to write up (in 100-500 words) please get in touch.

My hope is that resolving these issues will help clarify and smooth the editorial process over the next year so that we can produce a better and more timely Newsletter. If others are happy with me continuing as editor, I would be happy to continue – with Ally and Larry – and I hope that in the coming year we can publish some great articles.

Rachel Cohen.



## **Troika report - 2012**

At the RadStats AGM in February 2012 a new Troika was elected. Two of the members (Al and David) had not been on the Troika previously. The year was a learning experience for us. Otherwise, most of our work over the past year has been the provision of advice and guidance for the activities of RadStats colleagues.

### **Website**

The Troika made some suggestions and recommendations on the revamped RadStats website.

### **Annual conference 2013**

Over the year the Troika has supported John Bibby while he organised the highly successful conference in York. During the weekend of the conference itself we were able to provide practical support to ensure the event ran smoothly.

### **RadStats Journal**

We have supported Rachel Cohen in her role of journal editor. The Troika has discussed the journal being a peer-reviewed publication, and recommended that the editorial policy should not change.

We decided that RadStats should use Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for publications.

### **Links to other groups**

We have written to the getstats to suggest we co-operate in our work, and received a favourable reply.

RadStats supports the International Year of Statistics.

### **Members of the Troika:**

Al Franco

Ally Greig

David Lamb

March 2013

b Despite some technical glitches we now use skype to conduct business. At our meetings we have discussed several issues. After the successful 2012 conference we have decided to make stronger links with other groups which share the aims of Radical Statistics.

We intend that Radical Statistics takes a high profile role in the International Year of Statistics 2013.

## Radstats Website & Social Media Report, Feb 2013

### Website: [www.radstats.org.uk](http://www.radstats.org.uk)

On December 15, 2012 we launched the new Wordpress based website and migrated the blog posts from the Wordpress site to integrate with the website, using a theme (look and feel) called Wordpress twenty-eleven. This has been received positively.

A new banner was created that is a collage of images of members from the 2012 conference. It is possible to replace this piece by piece. The top level navigation is Home, Blog, About us, Membership, Conference, Journal, Activity and Contact us. This should be flexible enough to allow any new content or activity.

There is still some work to bring pages deeper in the website up to date, such as journal issue table of contents. Offers to volunteer are welcome; no specialized knowledge necessary. However, there is a relatively seamless relationship between the old pages and the new ones since they are all on the same server, and any links on old navigation menus get re-routed to the new home page.

For the domain radstats.org.uk from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (day after the conference) to 16 February, 2103, the statistics are similar to the previous year, but hits have apparently increased around 18%.

Total Sessions Served 239833

Total Hits 858239

Total Page Hits 320652

Total Non Page Hits 537587

Total Session Duration 26245210s

Total Transferred 43.13 GB

### Blog

The old blog on the wordpress.com server has 51 subscribers but is being taken down. The new blog, integrated with the website, has 15 subscribers. There were 12 posts since the last conference. Ludi Simpson resigned as blog editor for the Reduced Statistics category. Larry Brownstein has joined as a new blog contributor for the Statistics in Society category. The only other active editor is myself as web editor. Generally I only blog about Radstats organizational news such as new journal, new conference, new web page ,etc. so new blogger volunteers would be very welcome. In particular it might be nice to have someone monitoring the email discussion list for items to blog about or to request single blog contributions from the list members.

## Twitter: @radicalstats

The twitter account has been very successful, kept up by myself and more recently Alistair Cairns also. There have been 515 tweets since the account opened about two and a half years ago. 984 people follow us on twitter. I'd like to propose that we offer a free subscription to the 1,000<sup>th</sup> follower for added publicity and celebration. There were enough tweets about the conference last year to create a Storify story, which has gotten 464 views: <http://storify.com/RadicalStats>

The hashtag #radstats is being used again for conference tweets and a storify will be created.

## Youtube

Thanks to Unity Films, we have high quality video clips of the speakers from the 2012 conference at the British Library who gave permission for these to be posted on youtube and embedded in the conference page. There is now a public radstats channel on youtube, <http://www.youtube.com/user/radstats> with 7 subscribers. Our videos have been viewed 1,108 times. The most views are of Ann Pettifor with 388 views.

Unity Films is providing raw video files for us this year, with one instead of two cameras. A discussion is needed about how to get these edited if we want to put them up on youtube.

## Facebook

Alastair Greig and Alistair Cairns have both contributed to the facebook page and kept it active over the year. The following screenshot gives stats for a one month period from mid-January to mid-February 2013, which included 190 "likes" from facebook users. Pictures of facebook users who like us are displayed at random on the Radstats home page via a 'widget'.



## Radical Statistics Group Accounts 2011-2012

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 December 2012

	2012	2011	2010	2009
GENERAL INCOME				
subscriptions	£4,520.00	£4,812.00	£4,212.00	£4,315.00
Conference Takings	£2,855.00	£1,400.00	£3,134.03	£815.00
Publications/sales	£20.00			
library subs	£187.00	£275.00	£110.00	£435.00
donation*			£15.00	£94.00
credit in error	£50.00			
refund of debits in error	£65.54			
subtotal	£7,697.54	£6,487.00	£7,471.03	£5,659.00
interest current account	£13.99			
Interest deposit account (56)	£3.34	£3.33	£6.85	
Interest Deposit account	£4.57	£4.55	£3.33	
TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED	£21.90	£7.88	£10.18	£12.65
TOTAL INCOME	£7,719.44	£6,494.88	£7,481.21	£5,671.65
EXPENDITURE				
Conference costs	£1,062.60	£297.68	£878.89	£122.65
Radstats Newsletter	£1,509.24	£2,484.50	£2,663.37	£2,167.47
Administrative fee	£1,265.24	£1,149.12	£849.21	£810.00
Administrative expenses	£1,517.14	£285.42		
Miscellaneous	£300.00	£102.35	£30.00	£309.29
Bank charges	£3.34	£31.98	£83.86	£17.14
Other (leaflet)			£55.00	£100.00
Essay	£33.00	£100.00		

refund (credits in error)	£510.00			
debits in error	£266.54			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£6,467.10	£4,451.05	£4,560.33	£3,526.55
NET INCOME	£1,252.34	£2,043.83	£2,920.88	£2,145.10

#### NET WORTH at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

BANK BALANCES	2012	2011	2010	2009
Current Account	£10,505.08	£9,260.65	£7,224.70	£4,314.00
14 Day Deposit	£3,561.98	£3,558.64	£3,555.31	£3,551.98
14 Day Deposit (Health)	£4,864.61	£4,860.04	£4,855.49	£4,848.64
TOTAL	£18,931.67	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62
INCREASE IN NET WORTH				
bank balances at 1st Jan 2012	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62	£10,569.52
bank balances at 31st Dec 2012	£18,931.67	£17,679.33	£15,635.50	£12,714.62
Net Income for Year	£1,252.34	£2,043.83	£2,920.88	£2,145.10

Janet Shapiro, Treasurer

#### Auditor's comments

#### Treasurer's Report

The overall state of the finances are stable when variations over the years is taken into account.

**Subscriptions** remain stable. There are a considerable number of credits of odd amounts. In some cases the creditor cannot be traced. In others we have members not paying the full amount £25 per year. Note that the total in 2011 included a £450 overpayment due to member's bank error.

There are library subscriptions, also at £25 per year, and these can only be identified through the name on accounts. Some may have been allocated wrongly and members are welcome to check.

**Publication of the newsletter** is our greatest cost, and three editions came out in 2012. That explains the reduced 2012 net income. Some costs of #105 were also included in 2012.

**AGM/Conferences** are another potential cost. The 2011 Conference in Leeds had very low costs and the profit margin was approximately £1,100, whereas the 2012 Conference was in London with a profit margin of £790 with a very good attendance. In each year costs do not include administration.

Our account is now a Community Directplus Account that incurs no bank charges. We do receive untaxed interest and some advice on that is welcome.

Various errors occur through members overpaying and from unauthorised spurious direct debits. The bank corrects these errors but after a delay.

On the whole our finances are healthy and I would recommend that the troika sponsor projects in line with our policies.

May I thank Mike Quiggin as second signatory and Geoffrey Rendle for his careful checking of the accounts.

Janet Shapiro

Treasurer

February 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

## Membership Report for 2013 AGM

Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of February 2013, membership within Radical Statistics consists of:

	2013	2012	2011
Unwaged	*		
Low waged/Student	42	42	32
Standard	215	187	180
Institutional	28	28	26
Overseas	6	6	6
Gratis **	3	7	7
Total	294	270	251

*\* Following 2009 AGM, unwaged category was combined with low/student.*

*\*\* Five copies are sent to the Legal Deposits Libraries and two to the cover's graphic artist. Editors, authors & essay competition winners each receive two copies (one additional if already member).*

28 new members joined in 2012.

37 new members joined in 2011.

27 " 2010.