

RADICAL STATISTICS MEETINGS

Meetings of the Radical Statistics group are to be organised by the convener of each of the study-groups which were set up at the inaugural meeting. At the moment there are no plans for a meeting of the whole group and it is expected that these will be practical only as often as once a quarter. It is hoped that the study-groups will be able to meet more often and that they will be able to present 'reports' of their discussions and activities to the meetings of the whole group. This is, of course, not meant to be the final word on the group's organisation, and will have to be tried out and modified to suit as many people as possible. We would welcome comments on the suitability of this arrangement. However we hope that most people will take at least a nominal interest in one, if not more, of the sub-groups; a brief 'description' of each appears below.

Study-group on statistics in ECONOMICS

Ideas suggested for discussion at the first meeting of the group are the use of Cost Benefit Analysis and the construction of Cost of Living Indices, but all other ideas for topics to be examined by the group are welcome.

If you are interested in joining this sub-group please return the slip below to:

Andrew Harvey,
Rutherford College,
University of Kent,
Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NX

Tel : Canterbury 66822

I would like to join the study-group on Economics Name _____
Address _____
Tel No. _____

The first meeting of this study-group is suggested as

FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY at 6.00 p.m. at the London School of Economics

I CAN
I CANNOT manage a meeting at the time suggested

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU CAN ATTEND

Study-group on EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Topics for discussion include

- the status of various constructs e.g. intelligence, achievement
- ideological biases e.g. towards individual rather than co-operative work
- experimental vs. illuminative/action approaches to research
- use of models, such as regression and factor analysis for policy decisions
- special problems for longitudinal research

If you are interested in joining this sub-group please return the slip below to:

Harvey Goldstein,
 National Childrens Bureau,
 8 Wakeley St.,
 London N.1. Tel No : 01-278 9441

I would like to join the Educational Research group Name _____

Address _____

Tel No _____

Study-group on TEACHING STATISTICS

Topics for discussion include

- re-location of foundations (philosophy of science, especially the problem of induction
- the role of mathematics and probability
- the use of "applications" especially in service courses
- statistics as part of a "liberal education"
- should Bayesian statistics be kept a secret
- critique of hypothesis tests within various disciplines.

If you are interested in joining this sub-group please return the slip below to:

Jeff Evans,
 1 Granville Road,
 London N4 4EJ
 Tel:01-348 5514

I would like to join the sub-group on the teaching of statistics Name _____

Address _____

Tel No _____

Study-group on HEALTH

Topics for discussion include

- the different approaches to studying and "measuring" mental health
- the relationship between health and social class

If you are interested in joining this sub-group please return the slip below to:

Ian Plewis
 Thomas Coram Research Unit
 40 Brunswick Square,
 London W.C.1 Tel: 01-278 2424

I would like to join the sub-group on health Name _____

Address _____

Tel No _____

*Ngela Greenman,
9/2 Liz Alkins, 105 Wood Road, Letchworth*

Study-group on STATISTICIANS AS EMPLOYEES

What the subgroup can or should do can only be decided by all members once we get ourselves together, build up trust among us, and pool experience and ideas. These are my own ideas to start up discussion.

The idea of professionalism certainly mystifies both us and other workers, but it also provides statisticians with an alternative focus of identity which enables us to resist total subservience to our employers. The areas in which we work can be placed on a spectrum : in the academic world, we are granted a certain (maybe not very great) independence - for the system needs some creative work, which our rulers know doesn't flourish in prison. In industry and the more crucial areas, especially, of central government, we are subject to much more severe discipline by our employers - not even being allowed to speak about what we do. Non-university teaching, local government, research agencies are situated between the two ends of the spectrum.

What can we do about it? What use, if any, can trade unions or rank-and-file groups be to us? How can we help the work of other subgroups? Can we write alternative (anti-?)careers literature for the use of radical statisticians in education? How can we radicalise our colleagues? break down the barriers between us and other workers? fight the Official Secrets Acts and commercial confidentiality? gain more control over the conditions and content of our work?

Could we also look at broader issues? What is the situation of our counterparts in other parts of the world, and can we get in touch with them? What part can or should we play as statisticians in preparing for and organising a new society of freely associated labour? What would be the function of statistics in solving the problems of coordination in such a society? How can we bring mathematicians, scientists, engineers, OR people, computing workers, production workers and so on into these discussions?

These are some of my questions, and you have different questions. To begin with we'd better not be too ambitious. I'll be happy just to make contact with some of you out there !

NAME	ADDRESS

IDEAS FOR GROUP ACTIVITY

Please feel free to be more expansive on your ideas than the above space may permit by adding further sheets.

THE STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY GROUP

Dear Colleague,

The Statistical Methodology group has much to decide about its basic objectives and the best methods of pursuing these. Important as these decisions are it is equally important that the discussion of these should not occupy all of the group's time. If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas about what the S.M. group should or could do (whether or not you wish to become an active member) please scribble these down (excessive regard of English grammar unnecessary) and send them to me as soon as possible (or phone the number below).

YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED!

If you are interested in joining the group, please complete and return the slip below. Don't be deterred if you don't expect to attend many meetings - Active participation by post could still be expected.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

David Balmer

Dept. of Statistics,
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street,
London, WC2
Tel.No. 01-405-7686
Home No. 037-43-64563

To: D.W. Balmer
Department of Statistics,
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street,
London, WC2
Tel.No. 01-405-7686
Home No. 037-43-64563

STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY GROUP

I do wish to join the Statistical Methodology Group
do not

NAME ADDRESS
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IDEAS FOR GROUP ACTIVITY

Please feel free to be more expansive on your ideas than the above space may permit by adding further sheets.