

Editorial

Welcome to the RadStats newsletter now edited by Lee Williamson and Ivan Rappaport. Things have been changing within RadStats structure, with valued longstanding people leaving and new fresh blood helping both behind the scenes and in the Troika. Find all the changes in the Minutes of the AGM (pages 5 and 6).

There is no specific theme to this issue of the newsletter. We apologise to all the authors who have been very patiently waiting for us to publish their articles - sorry for the delay. The delay was due to a problem with special issues of the newsletter and the ordering of issues, which in turn held up the publication of regular RadStats articles. In mentioning special issues: you may have noticed issue #83 is missing. We hope to publish Issue #83 (a special issue on sexuality) this summer. We expect that the next three issues, in order of publication, will be:

- i. #83 See above.
- ii. #86 The 2004 RadStats conference.
- iii. #87 The Labour Market (see page 4).

In general, we hope that some of the articles will spark off more work, ideas or comments ... please feel free to contribute!

There is a short news piece from **Mandy Meikle** introducing **ScienceAid** that aims to make links between scientists and communities opposed to environmental damage, and it calls for support.

Ivor Kenna provides a method of **how to estimate the number of people on a March**. This short piece will hopefully throw open the question of whether someone will find a different method of estimating the number of people on a march? (Perhaps we could be enlightened as to how estimates are made at present!). Please let us know if you successfully use Ivor Kenna's method.

Carol Murray of the Scottish Low Pay Unit attempts to provide **the Definition of 'Adequate Remuneration'**, highlighting all the problems involved in creating such a definition, plus the advantages and disadvantages of the European Committee of Social Rights remuneration threshold.

Patrick McCrystal offers an article ***Social Exclusion – A holistic approach to understanding adolescent drug use.*** It provides a wide-ranging insight into why teenagers misuse drugs that readers may not be unaware of, going beyond all the usual indicators.

There is obvious empirical work to be done about the problem of quantitative material in social science **Malcolm Williams, Liz Hodgkinson** and **Geoff Payne** presents findings from their research project in an article ***A Crisis of Number? Some recent evidence from British sociology.***

Thanks

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News

Most of the news concerns the business of the RadStats 2004 AGM. There is also information about a special issue of Radical Statistics. Non-RadStats news follows on page 10.

Radical Statistics News

Forthcoming themed RadStats issue

We are planning to publish Newsletter #87 as a special issue on the labour market - so we invite contributions on issues such as unemployment, "economic inactivity", "employability" and occupational training regimes, low pay, state benefits and employment/unemployment.

Please contact Mike Quiggin (the guest editor for this issue) at:

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Communication from the Troika

Pete Latarche was our paid administrator for many years and has become something of an institution, especially while helping at Conference and social events. The troika thank him heartily on behalf of all members for his patience and efficiency. We wish him well during his new found leisure. David Symes has taken over as administrator.

The troika would also like to thank Jane Ferrie for many years of volunteer work in mailing the newsletter to members. Many thanks also to her mother, who often helped. Their work is very much appreciated and we believe they deserve a rest! Our new paid administrator, David Symes, will handle the printing liaison and mailing work from now on.

Radical Statistics Group Annual General Meeting Minutes

28 February, 2004

Friends Meeting House, London

Chair: John Bibby

Minutes: Andrew Philpott Morgan

1. The AGM unanimously offered its thanks to Pete Latarche's hard work over the last ten years. The helm is now passed to David Symes.

2. There was also a thank you to Jane Ferrie for her volunteer work over many years with the mailings and liaison with the printer. The troika has asked David to take this over from Sheffield, and he has agreed. David and Jane are to be in contact regarding arranging this.

3. The membership report (in Pete Latarche's absence) is on page 9. This shows a 6.4% decrease 2003 over 2002, but membership has remained stable over the decade.

4. The finance report (on page 7) shows a net loss of over £2,700 owing to a major contribution of £2,250 towards the Iraq survey. Further costs included new cover designs and scanning costs of RS back copies onto the website. It was agreed that the Troika would investigate whether there was, in respect of the Iraq survey, any shortfall in the amount agreed to be claimed by Roy Carr-Hill (after deduction of science and society trust monies) and that actually claimed. Any difference, up to a realistic maximum under discretion of the Troika, would be offered to Roy.

5. RS editor Lee Williamson suggested the need for volunteers and Ivan Rappaport offered to co-edit. The next RS is expected at end of March. The speakers all agreed to submit papers for a special Proceedings issue as well. There was a need to find out what happened to special issue 83, on Sexuality, and recover it if possible.

6. Alistair Cairns had completed most of the scanning of old newsletters, and now had number 34 thanks to Alison Macfarlane.

7. Some discussion took place over the handling of the email list with the current owner Alison Macfarlane, particularly in dealing with

unsavoury emails, and she will carry on intervening as necessary rather than making it exclusive in some sense.

8. Russell pointed to the disappointing involvement in the Essay Competition and the possibility of extending to school students.

9. In terms of political activity, talking to the press and so on a list of members' interests could be built up.

10. Cover designs could use Melanie Schollhammer's designs at £150 per cover. John Bibby suggested exploring alternatives. There was more agreement on the use of block lettering on the website, at £100 inclusive.

11. Thanks were given to Russell Ecob for his three years on the Troika and Helen Meszaros for her two-year term. Humphrey Southall and Robin Rice will now be joined by Mike Quiggin and Janet Shapiro. Alison Macfarlane continues as listowner, Janet Shapiro as treasurer, Lee Williamson as editor and Robin Rice as web editor.

12. Next year's AGM. The meeting considered exploring a youth hostel in the Peak District.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 December 2003

	2003 £	2002 £	2001 £	2000 £
GENERAL INCOME				
Subscriptions	2,916.00	2,925.00	3,940.00	2,999.00
Conference Fees	601.50	341.00	1,312.00	1,510.00
Publications		16.00	312.00	285.00
Other	212.00	46.00	165.00	0.00
subtotal	3,729.50	3,328.00	5,729.00	4,794.00
INTEREST RECEIVED	203.73	276.00	439.00	337.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,933.23	3,604.00	6,168.00	5,131.00
EXPENDITURE				
Conference costs	708.91	433.00	818.00	990.00
Radstats Newsletter	1,815.30	1,605.00	2,847.00	2,370.00
Administrative costs	534.36	526.00	1,367.00	2,822.00
Central publications		0.00	180.00	400.00
Bank charges	104.80	24.00	29.00	41.00
Other*	3,490.75	874.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6,654.12	3,462.00	5,241.00	6,623.00
NET INCOME	-2,720.89	142.00	927.00	-1,492.00

* includes contribution of £2,250 towards Iraq survey costs and scanning of back issues onto web site, web hosting and registration of web site

RADICAL STATISTICS GROUP

NET WORTH

As at 31st December 2003

	2003	2002	2001	2000
	£	£	£	£
BANK BALANCES				
Current Account	345.88	1,021.00	1,154.00	667.00
14 Day Deposit	11,395.62	13,334.00	10,714.00	10,314.00
Instant Deposit		0.00	2,344.00	2,304.00
TOTAL	11,741.50	14,355.00	14,212.00	13,285.00
INCREASE IN NET WORTH				
bank balances at 1st Jan 2003	14,462.39	14,212.00	13,285.00	0.00
bank balances at 31st Dec 2003	11,741.50	14,355.00	14,212.00	13,285.00
 Net Income for Year	 -2,720.89	 143.00	 927.00	 13,285.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was a net loss of £2,721 over the year, mainly caused by the decision at the Feb 2003 AGM to make a contribution of £2,250 to the costs of the Iraq survey. £2,250 was transferred from the deposit account to cover this.

AGM also decided to invest in new cover designs for the newsletter and to scan back copies onto the web-site. These expenses have been met.

Bank charges were heavier this year. This was caused by the transfer to a new treasurer and some unfortunate errors on the issue of large cheques.

The 2003 AGM at Bradford was very well-attended but not overly expensive. Three newsletters have been published.

Janet Shapiro, Treasurer
13th February 2004

RADICAL STATISTICS MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2004

This analysis has had to be done before RSJ #83 has been published and therefore represents the position prior to the 2003 year end computer run. The headline figure of 336 shows a nominal 6.4% decrease in subscribers, that is back to the 2002 level. The number opting to pay by Standing Order has grown marginally to 234 but of these, 35 remain at the pre-1997 rate of £10.00, either unresponsive to requests to update the SO or people who have moved on and not cancelled their subscription. Six of these are due to be deleted as more than 12 months overdue.

<i>Annual Membership</i> (at January of each year)	<i>Total</i>
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>No.</u>
1989	176
1990	250
1991	259
1992	342
1993	403
1994	376
1995	361
1996	393
1997	322
1998	345
1999	376
2000	354
2001	334
2002	335
2003	359
2004	336

Payment by:	Standing Order	234
	Cheque	102
	Total	336

<i>Subscribers by Category</i>		
	Feb 03	Feb 04
Unwaged	20	15
Low Waged	23	16
Waged	280	269
Institutions	36	36
Total	359	336

Membership enquiries should go to:

David Symes
66 Stumperlowe Park Road
Sheffield
S10 3QP

Email:
david@davidsymes.co.uk

ScienceAid ... linking communities and scientists

Mandy Meikle

ScienceAid is a 6-month pilot study, which began in January 2004. The project is run by the Centre for Human Ecology (CHE) in Edinburgh, in partnership with Friends of the Earth Scotland. The aim is to link communities who are campaigning against environmental injustices with a pool of scientists who are able to offer help and advice free of charge. Such a resource would be invaluable to both urban and rural communities facing environmental injustice - from polluting industrial plants and coastal fish farms, to waste management and extractive developments. Having access to free, reliable, scientific advice would enable people to engage much more effectively in local decision making.

We are looking to make contact with qualified scientists who might be interested in becoming involved with this project. While the community projects would be based in Scotland, many people already receive help from remote experts and we would like to connect with academics across the UK at this exploratory stage.

Whether you are a biochemist, microbiologist, physicist, medic, marine biologist or environmental scientist, if you have some relevant expertise and a little time to offer please get in touch. Similarly, if you would like some more information about ScienceAid please email scienceaid@che.ac.uk or call Mandy Meikle on 0131 624 1972 (Monday & Tuesday only). Or visit www.che.ac.uk for more information about the wider work of CHE.

A Conference on the Tensions in Social Statistics

You Are Invited; 20 Papers; Plenary Speaker Prof. Charles Ragin, speaking on "Why Fuzzy Sets" University of Durham

This event will be held on September 23-25, 2004. Reduced rates for students and unwaged people

Registration details for participants on www.ccsr.ac.uk/events/tss or from wendy.olsen@man.ac.uk