

Keeping in touch

Having a scattered membership, our communication channels are very important. Originally subgroups were quite active; members met face to face in sub-group meetings. The newsletters were produced - literally using 'cut & paste', and contained news of sub-group activity and reports of troika business meetings. It is worth browsing through the website www.radstats.org.uk to see for yourselves.

While the presentation of recent newsletters has been of a very high standard, the lively interchange evident from earlier newsletters has now been diverted to the public list radstats@jiscmail.ac.uk. How can we tap this enthusiasm and foster collaboration in challenging perceived misuses of statistics?

Here are a few ideas, but we would welcome more from you.

- First, make sure that the administrator has an up to date email address, because then you will receive notices posted on radstats-announce@jiscmail.ac.uk by the troika.
- There is a lively debate on the public list and we would like volunteers to come forward to collate and summarise these interchanges on various issues for publication in the newsletter.
- Our website is a big asset. It is an excellent shop-window for Radical Statistics. Recent additions include a paper produced by Policy Press on inequalities in the UK, and Ludi Simpson's audio file 'Where Have All the Young Men Gone?' (Census programme). We want more of these. Should we have a contact list and profiles of members on the site?
- The troika intends to make our new recruitment leaflet gather more information about members, to build up a network of those with like interests. This could result in more subgroups that could hold meetings or make contact through email. The existing subgroups are listed inside the front cover of the newsletter but may need more support.

Judging from messages posted on the public list there are no shortages of issues to justify new subgroups that could produce critical commentaries. Please let us have your suggestions.

The Troika:

Mike Quiggin, Janet Shapiro, Geoffrey Rendle & Shailen Nandy,