

Editorial

Welcome to RADSTATS issue 92, edited by Alan Marshall and Ivan Rappaport. This edition includes an article on the use of statistics in Chechnya and a look back at some of the cartoons that have appeared in RADSTATS over the years. The issue also contains both of the prize winning entries from the RADSTATS essay writing competition. This is the penultimate RADSTATs journal of the year with the final issue due to come out in December.

Ray Thomas gives a thought provoking account of the manipulation of official statistics on population for political ends before, during and after the Chechen wars. Ray argues that this case study shows the importance of the role of local government in producing statistics.

Alan Marshall's essay provides a critique of the use of quantitative methodologies within human geography over time. Alan argues that whilst such techniques have been misused and are mistrusted by some, if used appropriately they provide a valuable research tool.

Pierre Walthery gives an overview of the measurement of social class in the UK and evaluates the extent to which statistics accurately portray the life chances of individuals. Pierre also examines how such statistics are used by the Office for National Statistics using content analysis of the ONS publication, Social Trends.

Last but certainly not least, Robin Rice collates cartoons from RADSTATS journals giving an indication of the shrewd and amusing ways in which they have encapsulated social and political debate.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue,

Thanks

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