

News

David Hutton 1916-2006

Regular Radical Statistics member and conference-goer David Hutton died aged 90 in 2006. He was always supportive of the younger generations which had led Radical Statistics into existence and through its first 30 years (the organisation itself is getting rather elderly itself). I remember his encouragement very warmly, including his donation for a Radical Statistics prize of an original cartoon by Margaret Belsky from the New Statesman, in defence of the Government Statistical Service when its existence was questioned by Ted Heath.

In RadStats issue 46, David wrote critically of the Co-operative Union accounts which potentially allow a comparison of the great majority of co-ops in Britain, and appealed for radical numerate people to involve themselves with that form of social ownership.

For those who knew David only through Radical Statistics, the following is extracted from a short biography by his daughter Caroline.

“David Hutton and his wife Ann spent their lives committed to progressive causes, organising at the grass roots level. David was in the Communist Party from 1935-48, but his main passion outside work and family was the Co-operative movement.

“After the war he joined the Civil Service where he stayed until he retired. During his time in Education, he was awarded an OBE, as the head of the statistics group, which he had built up.

“In the Co-operative movement, he was committed to improving member democracy and critiquing the management's mistakes. He recognised that with his class background, he should always be seen to do the mundane work of making the coffee and getting the newsletter out, if he was to have any credibility in a working class organisation.

“As his children, we learned from his example of service to the community, acting in principled manner and using humour. He looked after our mother until he died, and we miss him.”

Ludi Simpson

Reading Between the Numbers

I have a number of copies of Reading Between the Numbers, a critical guide to educational research by the Radical Statistics Education Group. Though it was published in 1982 (!), we understand that some researchers still find it of value today.

If anyone would like a copy, please send me a stamped addressed A5 (the size in which Radical Statistics is normally posted out) envelope (37p stamp will cover it). First come first served. There is no charge as far as I am concerned, but RadStats suggests that you might like to make a donation to them.

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