

Editorial

Welcome to issue 97, the 2008 conference issue. The 2008 Radical Statistics conference was held for the first time in Edinburgh, Scotland, and we marked this, and the 10th anniversary of Devolution by an appropriate theme 'A Decade of Devolution: Does it measure up?' In all we had seven talks; as a break from tradition these were summarized (very ably) by a discussant, Colin Clark. His written summary makes a good introduction to the articles.

Most talks were either directly or indirectly relevant to Devolution. Those of greatest relevance to the theme related to National Identities and Public Opinion. The current importance of National Identities may be judged by the definite possibility that a question will be asked on this in the 2011 census, though apparently this is more likely to be in England than in Scotland or Northern Ireland (can anyone explain this?) See <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/collecting-info/dev-questionnaires/index.html>.

Other talks covered poverty in Britain, the cost of care in later life, international migration to Scotland, measuring child well-being, the last being a rather controversial talk in which Dave Byrne suggested that middle class Scots are over-benefitting relative to those in particular regions in the North of England.

Issue 97, like 96, is appreciably larger than usual. We ask members to note that they have received two large issues of *Radical Statistics* in 2008 - but this has been costly. The editors suggest that a discussion takes place at the 2009 AGM on the length, cost and publication mode of *Radical Statistics*, together with the related role of editors. Funding problems are explained by the treasurer, and this alert is placed directly after the editorial. Please read this and see what you can do to help.

Radical Statistics graciously thanks EDINA for its sponsorship covering printing this second large issue. There is information on EDINA enclosed with this journal, or see **www.edina.ac.uk**.

Later issues of *Radical Statistics* will include one to publish winning essays from the 2008 Biennial Critical Essay Competition. Another is a special issue edited by Wendy Olsen 'Social Exclusion Counted'. See page 116. Please send in your ideas and offers of papers, and do enjoy reading this issue.

Janet Shapiro, Jane Galbraith, Russell Ecob (Editors)

Urgent message from treasurer

Over several years, Radical Statisticians donated the proceeds of the RadStats books they published to our funds. These accumulated in deposit accounts and in year 2000 our assets stood at £12,618. By 2004 these assets had fallen to £9,569 and today the deposit account stands at £5,286. This situation is explained more fully in the 2008 AGM Treasurer's report.

The alarming fact is that if our yearly deficit remains at around £1,000 then Radical Statistics will be bankrupt in two or three years.

The newsletter is both our major asset and our major cost. The costs of producing and distributing two issues a year are barely covered by your subscriptions. Three a year puts us into deficit. For example, we estimate that the production costs of Radical Statistics #96 amounted to approximately £2,000. This was a large issue, and most issues cost between £500 & £1500 depending on size. Selling price of newsletters to cover production costs is £5 (£7 for #96), so this indicates that subscription levels have been kept to a minimum level.

Our administration costs are kept very low owing to the services of a very committed administrator supplemented by the services of many helpful volunteers, so the solution must be found by the members themselves. That means -

your help is needed!

A major discussion will take place at the 2009 AGM, but meanwhile donations and sponsorships are asked for.

Members could offer a donation in excess of the nominal membership fee. Sponsors could contribute to such costs as: the production of an issue of the newsletter (cover design, printing, colour insets, posters, illustrative cartoons), essay competition prizes or maintaining the website. For these sponsors would be acknowledged appropriately.

Come forward with your offers!

Any offers or suggestions should be addressed to troika@radstats.org.uk and/or admin@radstats.org.uk .

Janet Shapiro (Treasurer)