

Editorial

New Year Resolutions

Let's make a 'New Year Resolution for 2012'; this could be for us all to resolve to write articles for Radical Statistics that challenge the ill-judged media statements that too often go unchallenged; these must mislead an unsuspecting public. RadStats folk are busy airing their opinions on the RadStats email list, but let's get these well-informed arguments printed in Radical Statistics. Resolve to stop fuming uselessly at media bias but instead get writing!

However, the editors need to admit failure to honour our pledge to have #105 out before the end of 2011. Our resolution for 2012 will be to make realistic deadlines and plan efficiently to keep to them.

Cuts & Corporations

Not all the papers presented at the Radical Statistics Annual Conference 2011 could be included in #104, although power point presentations could be accessed at www.radstats.org.uk soon after the event. This Part II Conference issue includes a summary written by Larry Brownstein of the presentation given by Howard Reed that showed that the poorer you are the more the cuts bite and vice versa - the opposite of what the government had claimed for the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The work carried out for the TUC by Tim Horton and Howard Reed, '*Where the Money Goes: How we benefit from public services*', was a source of evidence for many other conference presentations. Just a few of the graphs constructed from that data are given in the summary.

At the time of the conference Tim Holt was at the Fabian Society; he has since been appointed special advisor to Ed Miliband.

Additional Contributions

With regard to making our voice heard, the new Radical Statistics Population Studies Group is setting a good example by publishing cogent arguments against the misleading propaganda issued by 'Population Matters' (PM). Their article addresses PM claims about carbon footprinting, overpopulation and migration, identifying both glaring failures of logic and lack of evidence.

Radical Statistics has had many articles and activities related to population studies over the years including issue 100 on Ageing in 2010. The editors encourage all who have an interest in population studies to contact Sylvie Dubuc.

We are grateful for a contribution from Jessica Norman on 'Mathematics Anxiety' as observed amongst secondary school children. Fears are often expressed about the dearth of numerically competent young people to carry on our work as statisticians. Jessica's contribution raises lots of questions that should trigger further articles. She makes no reference to ethnic background, so there may be a need to refer back to a review in Radical Statistics #76 (1997) on a book entitled '*Ethnomathematics - challenging eurocentrism in mathematics education*'.

According to general practice, 2011 conference papers are included, also accessible at www.radstats.org.uk.

Don't miss the reminder for the 2012 Conference. This will be held in the British Library. Make sure you keep these dates clear, this year the main papers will be presented on **Friday** February 25th with the AGM the following Saturday morning.

Please keep your contributions flowing.

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