

## Editorial

Following the publication of the two general competition winners in the last issue of *Radical Statistics*, this issue includes the two winners of the 2014 student essay competition. The winner, Clara Musto, embarks on a critical analysis of the 'gateway hypothesis', i.e. cannabis as a stepping stone drug. She does so by focusing on Uruguay, where cannabis was recently decriminalised. In her essay, Geraldine Clark, who came second place in the student competition, focuses on higher education and more specifically the expectations and aspirations of non-traditional students at a post-1992 University. The essay provides new knowledge about the role of habitus and capital in explaining these students' expectations and aspirations and adds to our understanding of these in relation to the widening participation across social classes and socioeconomic backgrounds in the UK.

The theme of widening participation in UK universities is continued by Vikki Boliver. Vikki examines the recent Russell Group publication *Opening Doors* and shows that the claims made here about widening access in our most elite universities do not stand up to scrutiny. Rather these institutions remain unrepresentative and this has changed little over the last decade.

In his article John Veit-Wilson unpicks the claims of UK Chancellor, George Osborne, to be introducing a 'living wage'. John highlights the differences between this fictitious 'living wage' and the living wage as calculated on the basis of a decency level. The article demonstrates problems relating to measurement ownership and difficulties that emerge when the naming of a measure becomes political.

Included in this issue is also a set of reports from the 2015 Radical Statistics Conference that was themed *Good Data, Good Policy*. These include a conference report from the organisers, two of the concluding reflections, by Ludi Simpson and Alison Macfarlane, which address the past and future of *Radical Statistics*, and a workshop report by Ludi Simpson and Nissa Finney in which they imagine what a community agenda around race statistics would look like.

The issue concludes with two book reviews. The first, by Eoin Flaherty, evaluates an introduction to R for spatial analysis and mapping. Eoin includes helpful notes for people thinking about whether it is worth making the switch to R (which is free and open source) from another statistical package. The second review, by Larry Brownstein, is an

appreciative, if critical, review of William Mitchell's book on the Eurozone's problems. As Larry highlights, Mitchell is important, in part because he is an originator of Modern Monetary Theory.

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