

Contents

1. Introduction: Demystifying Social Statistics / <i>John Irvine, Ian Miles and Jeff Evans</i>	1
Section One: Historical Perspectives on Social Statistics	9
2. Statistics Teaching in Social Science: A Problem with a History / <i>John Irvine and Ian Miles</i>	11
3. The Social Roots of Statistical Knowledge / <i>Martin Shaw and Ian Miles</i>	27
4. Eugenics and the Rise of Mathematical Statistics in Britain / <i>Donald MacKenzie</i>	39
Section Two: Of Knowledge and Numbers	51
5. What's so Great about Facts? / <i>John Krige</i>	53
6. Why are Figures so Significant? The Role and the Critique of Quantification / <i>Robert M. Young</i>	63
7. Positivism and Statistics in Social Science / <i>Russell Keat</i>	75
8. The Significance of 'Significance Tests' / <i>Liz Atkins and David Jarrett</i>	87
Section Three: Statistics and the State	111
9. The Critique of Official Statistics / <i>Ian Miles and John Irvine</i>	113
10. How Official Statistics are Produced: Views from the Inside / <i>Government Statisticians' Collective</i>	130
11. Social Class: Official, Sociological and Marxist / <i>Theo Nichols</i>	152

12.	Sexism in Official Statistics / <i>Ann Oakley and Robin Oakley</i>	172
13.	The Poverty of Wealth Statistics / <i>Christopher Hird and John Irvine</i>	190
14.	Poverty in the Welfare State / <i>Jim Kincaid</i>	212
15.	Labour Statistics / <i>Richard Hyman and Bob Price</i>	222
16.	A Matter of Life and Death: Medicine, Health and Statistics / <i>Lesley Doyal</i>	237
Section Four: Statistics in Action		255
17.	The Computerisation of Social Research / <i>Mick McLean</i>	257
18.	Opinion Polls—Social Science or Political Manoeuvre? / <i>Catherine Marsh</i>	268
19.	Operational Research and Cost Benefit Analysis: Whose Science? / <i>Jonathan Rosenhead and Colin Thunhurst</i>	289
20.	Social Forecasting: Predicting the Future or Making History? / <i>Ian Miles and John Irvine</i>	305
21.	The Use of Statistics in Counter-Information / <i>Bill Ridgers</i>	325
Section Five: Conclusion		337
22.	Social Statistics: Towards a Radical Science / <i>Dot Griffiths, John Irvine and Ian Miles</i>	339
Index		383